

Mint of the United States
Philad^a. October 5th 1824

No 1 Mr. L. M. Hubbard

Dear Sir,

The Salina detached from the specimen of Northampton Massachusetts Ore, which you placed in my hands for examination, was carefully tried by Mr. Cloud of the Mint, whose accuracy is well known, and yielded within a small fraction of 50 per cent of good Lead. The result of an examination by Mr. Richardson, to determine the proportion of Silver, was, one part of Silver to twelve hundred parts of the Lead.

The Salina was not submitted to a strict Chemical analysis, but a treatment resembling that which must be resorted to in large operations. Probably a new analysis would afford, as in the Missouri Ores, ten to fifteen per cent more.

Yours Respectfully

Sam^l Moore

Director

Mint of the United States
Philad^a. January 1st 1825

No 2 Mr. Christopher Burr

Providenced

Sir,

Your favour of the 27th ult. addressed to my predecessor dec^d. came yesterday.

The Silver Bullion you mentioned, is, I presume of the character called amalgamated Silver, such as we frequently receive from Mexico and South America. It will be received in deposit for coinage, and will yield one dollar for the number of grains of pure Silver in a dollar, but it is not the practice to buy Gold or Silver at the Mint. If your deposit proves on an assay of it to be of the Standard of the U. States, you will receive its full weight in Silver coins without charge. If below Standard there would be a charge for refining, varying from 52 to 54 per cent. If above Standard, as amalgamated Silver is, there will be a charge of the cost of the Copper used for alloy, which may vary from one fourth to one eighth of one per cent on the value of the deposit.

The melting and assaying of such a quantity as you mention, are generally completed and a certificate of the true weight and value issued on the day after receiving the rough deposit. If it were large, two days would be requisite. The delay of coinage

depends on the amount of previous deposits, which being great at present, yours would be postponed about three months. But depositors usually avail themselves of the facilities offered by the Banks of this city, which pay cash for Mint Certificates at a discount of one half per cent. on their amount.

I think it proper to mention that the amalgamated silver, as brought to the Mint, contains a portion of Quick-silver and sometimes water in its pores which are of course dissipated by the melting. The loss in weight on the rough deposit varies generally, between one and four per cent.

Nothing further occurs to me as necessary for your information or to prevent disappointment. If the deposit is made, justice will be done.

Yours Respectfully,
Sam^l Moore
Director.

No. 2* Recorded on page 17. Letter to Ex-President Thos. Jefferson.

No. 3 Mint of the United States
Philad^a February 28th 1825

The Hon. J. D. Adams
Secy. of State
Sir.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt on the evening of Saturday the 26th inst. of your favour, communicating the confirmation, by the Senate, of my appointment by the President, of Director of the Mint, and accompanied by a Commission, conformably thereto.

I have the honour to be
with great respect
Your Obedt. Serv^t
Sam^l Moore

Mint of the United States
Philad^a February 28th 1825

No. 11 Gottfried Bisher Esq^r
New York
Sir.

Your communication addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury on the subject of Steel for dies, has been referred to me, and received this morning from Washington. Please to forward me Box of the Steel if you wish.

tion to this Office. If found equal to your estimate of its value for the purpose designated, it will be very cheerfully paid for and a supply of it as may be necessary, ordered for the public use.

Very Respectfully

Yours,
Sam^l Moore
Director.

Mint of the United States
Philad^a March 18th 1825

No. 5 Sam^l L. Southard Esq^r
Secretary of the Treasury
Sir.

I addressed a letter on the 3rd inst. to the then Secretary of the Treasury, requesting his opinion of the practice which has for many years prevailed at the Mint, of rendering the return of the accounts annually instead of quarterly, which the original direction from the Treasury and the forms accompanying them prescribed. However desirable it may be as diminishing the labour of the Clerk of this establishment, to persevere in this practice, I do not feel justified under the Law to pursue it unless by the consent of the Department. The letter to which I allude, explains satisfactorily, I trust, the origin of the practice. Will you have the goodness, when the pressure of your increased duties will admit, to have the subject investigated, and favour me with the result.

I am, with great respect

Your Obedt. Serv^t

Sam^l Moore
Director

See Book B. p. 13

No. 6 Mint of the United States
Philad^a March 31st 1825

Mr. S. H. Bitt

Sir.

Yours of the 28th ult. inclosing a small piece of metal came while I was absent for a few days from the city, which must be my apology for not having replied to it at an earlier moment.

The metal proves to be Tin of the ordinary quality used in the arts. The examination to which it was subjected, leaves no doubt on that head. Should it be convenient

to send by any of your friends, who may be visiting this place, a quantity of the ore in its natural state, an examination shall be made of it, which may result in information useful to you; and if so, I shall take pleasure in communicating it. At present, any suggestion I might make relative to its value, would be as likely to mislead as to instruct.

I am Very Respectfully
Yours,

Saml. Moore
Director

No 7

Mint of the United States
Philad. April 5th 1825

Gottfried Bucher Esq

Sir

The quality of the Steel received from you has been tried, and found satisfactory for certain purposes in the Mint, though unsuitable for dies. The Bundles weighed here 275 lbs. & 274 lbs. — 550 lbs. which will be paid for at the price stated by you of 13 dollars, if you will please authorize some person here to receive the money.

Yours Respectfully

Saml. Moore
Director

No 8

To R. Temple Esq. President of the Bank of Portland.
April 18th 1825. Relates to a supply of cents and small coins. See File

No 9

To Messrs. Merian & Co. N.Y. May 9th 1825. Relates to dimes and cents. See File

No 10

To H. Page Esq. Cashier of the Bank of Portland May 11th 1825
Relates to a supply of cents. See File

No 11

To Editor of the National Journal, May 25th 1825
Subscription for paper. See File

No 12

Mr. J. M. O'Connor

New York

Sir

Yours of the 2nd. relative to Copper for the use of the Mint, came to hand too late to admit of a reply by the mail of yesterday.

The supply of Copper now on hand being sufficient for some months, and the price being more likely to decline than advance, it is not considered expedient to purchase any more of that article at present. For your satisfaction I remark that the price you mention, 25 to 27 cents, is rather higher than the cost of our last purchases. If an addition to our stock were necessary, it could be obtained of good quality, at 25 cents, here.

Yours Respectfully

Saml. Moore
Director

No 13

To W. Hunt. Cashier Bank at Union N.Y. July 19th 1825

Relates to a certificate, and a transmission of Copper. See File

No 14

Mint of the United States
Philad. August 5th 1825

The President of the U.S.
Sir

Permit me respectfully to represent, that the continued pressure on the Mint for Coinage, which it is probable will not be much diminished in future years, renders it very desirable that the Engraving department should be strengthened by the employment of an Assistant Engraver. Having deferred proposing this measure while any doubt was entertained of its expediency, I now respectfully submit it for your approbation.

An Assistant in this department has been employed at various periods, and by every former Director. The last artist who officiated in this capacity was engaged by Mr. Patterson, with the President's approbation, in the year 1807, and continued in the Mint until 1817. Since that time, the principal Engraver, with the aid of a large number of his prepared in anticipation, when an Assistant was employed, and the expenditure of this far left him is now required, has been competent to supply the current demand.

But the extended operations of the Mint, the propriety of guarding those operations from interruption by the sickness or death of the engraver; the studious precision required for the perfect execution of a die; and the advantage to be derived in coinage from this more frequent renewal, will, I hope be thought to justify the measure recommended as necessary to the right accomplishment of the objects of this institution.

There is, however another consideration which enhances the necessity for such an assistant now. The series of our dies has been imperfect for many years. No die of the Eagle, the Dollar, or the Half Dime have been in use since the year 1805. Little if any practicable inconvenience has I believe resulted from the omission, but the law of April 2nd 1792 establishing the Mint appears to me, though it was certainly not so understood by my excellent predecessor, to impose an official obligation to keep the series entire, and to execute from time to time, coins of every denomination, or coined by law. The renovation of our obsolete dies, will, perhaps afford a favourable moment for revising the whole series, with such emendations as good classic taste, and the improved state of the Arts at this day, may suggest within the existing legal provisions.

I avail myself of the occasion to mention that I hope to be able in a short time to submit to your consideration some medallions and drawings of a new head of Liberty, with the view to the adoption of one of them on our coins, if approved. This subject has engaged much of my attention.

The individual whom it would be my first wish to introduce on this occasion into the Mint as Assistant Engraver, is Mr. Gobrecht, a native American artist of much merit, residing in this City. A trial was made of his talent for the execution of dies by Mr. Patterson on the occasion of the death of Mr. Scott in 1823 and before the appointment of Mr. Kneass, the present engraver, and his work was very highly approved. We resort to him now for the letter stamps of the inscriptions on our coins, his specimens of which, are not surpassed by any made at the Mint. He is at present engaged in modelling the medallions before alluded to, some of which have been privately seen by Mr. Biddle, Mr. Sergeant, Mr. Sully, and Professor Patterson, and the style of their execution highly commended by those gentlemen. The private character, & personal manners of Mr. Gobrecht are such as I would wish, and his services would be considered in many respects a

valuable acquisition.

I have the satisfaction to state that under the present regulations of the Mint, aided by a recent great improvement in our machinery introduced by Mr. Eckfeldt the Chief Coiner, I feel a confident hope that the operations of the establishment can be maintained in undiminished vigour, and the charge of an assistant engraver, defrayed without any increase of the expenditure beyond the average appropriations of the last five years.

I have the honour to be

With great respect

Yours Obedt Servt

Saml Moore

Director

No 15 To Isaac Adams Esq. Portland. August 25th 1825
Relates to a supply of coins. See file

No 16
Mint of the United States
Philad^a. August 31st 1825
Hon. Richard Rush
Secy of the Treasury
Sir.

I had the honour of representing to the President, under date of the 3rd inst. the expediency of employing in the Mint at the present time, an artist in the capacity of assistant engraver, and referring the measure to his decision.

Communications from this Office to the President on such occasions, have hitherto been, I perceive, immediate, but the intense interest of the subjects, which it is apparent, have, since the above date, passed with far superior claims on the President's attention, creates a regret that in this instance, I did not deviate from the example of my predecessors. Permit me now therefore respectfully to request that you would at such moment as may be least inconvenient to the President, consult his pleasure on the matter submitted, and have the goodness to communicate it to me.

To the consideration which I have already had the honour of submitting to the President in favour of the proposed measure, I do not now deem it necessary to add. It may be proper, however to state in confirmation of some of them, a fact ascertained this day, that the coinage effected

from the first of January to the present time, exceeds that of any former equal period. If the supply of Bullion should be continued, I flatter myself, the next annual report of the operations of the Mint will exhibit an amount of coinage greater than has been executed in any former year, since its establishment.

I am, with great respect,
Your Obedt. Servt

Saml. Moore
Director

No 17

Hon. Richard Rush
Secy of the Treasury
Sir

Mint of the United States
Philad^a Sept^r 15th 1825

Now favour of the 9th inst. communicating the opinion of the President adverse to the employment of an assistant engraver in the Mint without the sanction of Congress, has been considered with very respectful regards.

If the source from which this decision emanates, did not give full assurance of its correctness, I could find in the present condition of our coin, a strong motive for wishing it had been different; or might yet be reconsidered. But its correctness is not questioned, notwithstanding the examples presented in the history of the Mint of a practice variant from it. Those examples, since the receipt of your communication, I have carefully reviewed, but refer to them now only as an apology for myself. Be pleased to express to the President my respectful acquiescence in his decision. I cannot doubt but that Congress will confer the power of employing those occasional assistants to the several officers of the Mint, without which, great embarrassments in the operations will be sometimes inevitable. A vigilant care will be exerted to guard against them in the interim.

Having intimated heretofore an expectation of being soon able to submit to the President some medallions and drawings of a new head of Liberty, I have to request that you will be pleased to mention, on that subject, that I have not yet obtained, in their finished state, all the varieties I wish. They are, however, in progress, and I flatter myself, there will be found among them a figure, which will be approved as an emendation of our coins.

No embarrassment results to me personally, on the present occasion. In submitting to the President the question of employing an assistant engraver, I carefully abstained, under the influence however of other sentiments and feelings than a doubt of the result of the application, from giving any intimation of my purpose to the individual named in the communication.

I am Very Respectfully

Your Obedt Servt

Saml. Moore
Director

No 18 To Mr. W. Beatty Esq. Fredericksburg Va. Sept^r 19th 1825
Relates to an examination of minerals. See File.

No 19 To Mr. Meriam New York. Sept^r 22nd 1825
Relates to small coins and cents. See File.

No 20 To R. Edwell. Boston. October 11th 1825
Relates to a Silver Deposit. See File.

No 21 To Hon. S. L. Southard. November 30th 1825
Relates to a Specimen of Copper Ore. See File & No 24

No 22 To Hon. Richard Rush, Secy of the Treasury. Nov^r 30th 1825
Relates to same subject as No 21. See File & No 24

No 23 To Hon. S. L. Southard. December 10th 1825
Relates to same subject as No 22. See File & No 24

No 24

Mint of the United States
Philad^a December 10th 1825

Hon. Richard Rush
Secy of the Treasury
Sir

The Copper Ore received here on the 29th ult. accompanied by your request to have it analyzed has been

carefully examined by Mr. Cloud. There were found to be two specimens, the smaller appearing to be a selection of the portions most abundant in metal. This only has been analyzed. The accompanying results of two trials give five parts of Copper in thirty of the Ore. If the large specimen be a sample of the Ore as found in the mine, its analysis would be instructive, and will be made if requested. But if it be the residue of a general sample after the selection of the small parcel from its no valuable information would result from its examination. It would be preferable to try a new sample, offering the proportion which nature presents in situ. Herewith I forward, as requested, the metal obtained. One specimen is in the form in which it came from the Crucible. The other has been rolled to ascertain its malleability; the Copper is of good quality.

The small specimen considered to be Plaster, has also been examined. Mr. Cloud, from its external appearance alone, immediately and correctly decided it to be that species called Amblygonite. This is not usually found in abundant quantities. If a large specimen could be procured, it would be satisfactory to investigate its distinguishing peculiarities further.

With great Respect
Your Obedt Servt.
Saml Moore
Director

No 25 To Hon. John Taliaferro. December 21st 1825
Relates to an examination of Ore. see File

No 26 Mint of the United States
Philad^a Jan 7th 1826

Hon. Richard Rush
Secy. of the Treasury
Sir.

I have the honor to forward herewith my report on the general transactions of the Mint during the past year, which I very respectfully request you will be pleased to lay before the President. In conforming to the invariable usage of addressing this report to the President, I trust I have acted conformably to your wishes, though in the hope of being

honored with your further instructions on that point, I delay its transmission a few days. It is now sent in duplicate, as has hitherto been strictly enjoined.

It is with much regret that I include any request which will add to your pressing engagements, but I must beg you to excuse my calling your attention to the subject of my letter of the 20th ult. If I have your approbation, I will address a communication to the Committee of Ways and Means on the subject referred to.

I am, Very Respectfully
Your Obedt Servt.
Saml Moore
Director

No 27

Mint of the United States
Philad^a Jan 7th 1826

Hon. Richard Rush
Secy. of the Treasury
Sir.

I was last evening favoured with your letter of the 12th. Communicating the decision of the President relative to the occasional employment of an Assistant Engraver, and requesting me to name the sum which will probably be required for the object.

The sum paid to the last Assistant Engraver was six hundred dollars. It is not probable that a compensation, much less, would be adequate; and I therefore name that precise sum.

I beg leave to offer to the President my respectful acknowledgments for his assent to the measure proposed in the event of the appropriation being made by Congress, of which, under the circumstances I entertain a confident hope.

I have the honor to be
With great Respect
Your Obedt Servt.
Saml Moore
Director

No 28

To the Collector of the Port of New York. Feb 7th 1826
Relates to a Case of Hardware imported for the Mint. see File

No 29

To Mr. S. Poulter. February 22nd 1826
Relates to a Deposit. see File

Hon. S. Smith

Mint of the United States
Philad^a March 9th 1826

Sir

I was yesterday honoured with yours of the 5th. on the subject of certain foreign coins mentioned in a resolution of the Senate, and immediately took measures to procure specimens of the Gold and Silver coins of Brazil, Chili, Peru and Mexico. As soon as the requisite numbers and varieties can be obtained, the assays will be made, and the result communicated to you.

The Turkish Gold coins are not yet received. They will probably be here tomorrow, unless it has been thought expedient to wait for a private conveyance for them.

(Very Respectfully)

Yours Obedt Servt

Saml. Moore

Director

No 31 To Dr J. W. Webster March 8th 1826. Communicating facts in regard to coins and coinage. See File.

No 32933 To the Secretary of the Treasury & Hon. S. Smith, March 10th 1826
Relates to certain Turkish Gold coins. See File.

No 34 To W. D. Potts, Esq. March 21st 1826
Relates to Medals. See File.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia April 18th 1826

No 35

Hon. S. Tallies

Dear Sir,

Until very recently it has not been convenient on account of the indisposition of Mr. Cloud, and subsequently of one of the principal melters, to attend to the examination of the remaining specimens of your Copper ore. It has now been done in the manner I had wished. This portion of your ore yields 3 1/2 per cent of Copper from an average sample of the mass, which was all rounded together. A specimen of the metal is enclosed.

The question, whether such an ore can be advantageously worked, on which you desired me to offer an opinion, is not easily determined, without an actual trial of a large quantity by a proficient in such operations. In general it may be remarked that Copper mines wrought at the ordinary charge of labour in this country have not been profitable. Those which have hitherto been attempted in the United States, I believe have been abandoned, unless a recent attempt by a New York house to work one of the Tussey mines may be an exception. On this subject, I presume Mr. Dickinson of the Senate can give useful information, if not, either he, or the Secretary of the Navy, can introduce you to Judge Kelsey of Patterson, to whom probably the subject is familiar, and who would cheerfully reply to your inquiries.

In Reuss's Encyclopedia, under the article Mining, and Copper, interesting details will be found on the subject of Copper mines, from which I think it is apparent, that with all the aid of science, experienced, perfect machinery, and cheap labour, the Copper mines of England, in general yield but little profit on the Capital originally invested in them. The works which treat most fully of the processes used in the various mines in Europe, are Sassi's voyages Metallurgiques, and Schultze's Metallurgie, of which last, there is a French translation. These works are of high authority, and may probably be found in the Library of Congress. The standard work of Cronin on assaying gives those processes also, but in the small way only.

The established varieties of Copper ore are given in Cleaveland's treatise on Mineralogy, and Geology page 553. That variety to which your specimen belongs is the green carbonate of Copper, called Malachite. Mr. Cloud, by whom the examination of it has been made, and whose opinion is very valuable on these subjects, observes that this ore of Copper is among the easiest to reduce, and yields a metal more free from impurities than that derived from the ores generally worked. I must not omit, however to add, that he expresses a doubt whether this variety is to be found in such abundance as to afford the material for extensive works.

If the indications of its abundance are satisfactory, you will probably think it advisable to hazard so much on the experiment, as to have a trial made in the large way, under the direction of a practical artist, acquainted with the working of Copper. A judicious practical artist is worth more than all the books in this case. The expense per ton of raising the ore, separating it from the massive extraneous substances connected with it, and expelling it in a suitable furnace would be this.

ascertained in a manner which might lead to safe conclusions. A competent artist, as I am informed, Mr Henry West, is now employed at Baltimore, probably by Mr. Edlicott, in refining copper from the imported cake. His proper business in England, I understand, was smelting copper ores. The house of Boit, I believe, of New York, made the recent attempt to work one of the mines of New Jersey, and Paul Revere and Son, of or near Boston, have been, not long since, engaged in the refining of copper. From either of those quarters, perhaps, useful information may be obtained in procuring a competent artist if one is not to be found in Baltimore.

It may be proper to remark, that no useful inference can be derived from comparing the percentage of metal yielded by the copper ores of other mines, with the percentage exhibited by our trials of yours, without knowing the precise character and state of preparation of those ores when weighed. Your ore was weighed as for the purpose intended, it ought to be done with the stony and earthy matters raised with it from the mine. It is among the easiest to reduce to metal, and yields as good copper. The critical inquiry is, can it be so cheaply raised, and in such abundance, that with the facilities for working presented by its locality, the market price of cake copper will remunerate you.

The price of imported cake copper, which we receive chiefly from South America in this market, varies from 18 to 22 cents. The last sale, I am informed was 21 cents. Yours by its quality, would probably rank with the best in the market. The price of cake copper, I suppose would be adopted as the basis of an estimate to determine the propriety of working your ores.

I have offered the above remarks because you seemed to wish for such suggestions as might occur to me; though I am sensible that I may have said nothing which is not familiar to you, or which may in any degree, aid you in making a safe decision.

Yours Very Respectfully
Saml. Moore.

No 38

To Hon. Richard Rush, Secy. of the Treasury, April 18th 1828
Relates to the same subject as No 35. See File.

No 37 & 38

To W. H. Coffey. April 25th 1828
Relates to a supply of Cents. See File.

Mint of the United States
Philad^a. June 19th 1828

No 39

Mr Wm. Kidd
Weissmire Church Va.

Sir

News of the 24th ult. covering two mineral specimens, came to hand only on the 17th inst.

The large specimen is not metallic. It consists chiefly of mica, with a portion of earthy matter; and contains nothing, be assured, which merits your further attention.

The smaller specimen is the ore of Lead, called Galena, which is valuable if abundant and easily worked. But the facility of working the Lead ores of the same character which abound in some of the States and Territories on the border of the Mississippi, affords a supply of Lead for the market at so cheap a rate, as to render the Lead mines in other parts of the U. States unprofitable. Your Ore, like the above mentioned, would yield, if successfully smelted, 50 to 55 per cent. of Lead, the price of which, varies, I believe in the market from 5 to 7 Dollars per hundred pounds.

Excuse my recommending a careful attention to ascertain the expense of raising the ore in large quantities, smelting it and getting the lead to market, before costly works are hazarded. Much money has been unprofitably expended on mines of this Lead. To succeed in competition with mines now in operation demands not only good ore, and skilful management, but many local facilities.

Yours Respectfully
Saml. Moore.

No 40

Circular
To Cashiers of Diff Banks.

Sir.

Mint of the United States
Philad^a. June 1828

A resolution of the Senate of the United States on the subject of foreign coins, renders it desirable to obtain from the best sources of information in the different sections of the Union a variety of facts relative thereto. I take the liberty, therefore of requesting that you will be so good as to reply as precisely and fully as practicable to the following inquiries.

1 What foreign Gold coins, and what denominations

thereof are in circulation or use or received by the Banks within the range of your observations?

2. What are the dates of those coins most frequently observed, and what are the oldest, and what the latest dates noticed?

3. At what rate per pennyweight are those coins now received? If they pass by tale at what value are they now usually received?

4. Are the Gold coins of the New Governments of Spanish America used in circulation, or received by the Banks? If so, are they received at the same rate as the Gold coins issued under the authority of Spain?

5. Are the Gold coins of Brazil of the latest date received in circulation or by the Banks at the same rate as the Gold coins issued under the authority of Portugal?

6. What proportion of the amount of specie within your observation, consists of Gold coins? What proportion does the amount of foreign Gold coins, bear to that of the Gold coins of the United States?

7. What foreign silver coins, and what different denominations thereof do you observe used in circulation or received by the Banks?

8. What are the dates of those coins most frequently observed? What the oldest, and what the latest dates noticed?

9. Do Spanish dollars circulate, and find acceptance in the Banks at the rate of 100 cents without reference to their actual weight? Do the divisions of the Spanish dollar pass at a proportionate rate, in like manner without regard to their weight?

10. Are the Pistarens and the halves thereof current and at what rate?

11. Are Dollars of the New Governments of Spanish America used in circulation or received by the Banks like the Dollar issued under the authority of Spain? Are the divisions of those dollars received like corresponding parts of the Spanish Dollar?

12. Are the Silver coins of Portugal and Brazil used in circulation or received by the Banks? and at what rate? Are those of Brazil of the latest date received at the same rate as those issued under the authority of Portugal?

13. What proportion of the Specie within your observation consists of foreign Silver coins, & what of those of the U. States?

I enclose, for the purpose of facilitating detailed replies on some of the above points, a list of all the foreign Silver coins supposed to be in use as money in any part of the United States. Please fill the several columns for each coin if found within your knowledge. When none are found of the character named, please note the fact. In the space for Remarks, add such further information as may be desired, and please accompany these details as soon as you can conveniently, examining the points submitted with a letter to me addressed as above, containing such additional observations as occur to you on the topics of inquiry; extending your remarks also, to any other foreign coins omitted in the list, which are known to you as being in circulation in any part of the United States. You will oblige me by enclosing the whole under cover to the Hon. Richard Rush, Secretary of the Treasury, Washington.

Among the preceding inquiries are some, especially No 5 and 13 which, I am aware, cannot be answered strictly. The best estimate in your power will in such cases be considered as a useful approximation to the truth.

Should I perceive from your replies that there are in the quarter where you reside, some varieties of Gold or Silver coins, which I cannot otherwise obtain, I may on a future occasion, ask leave to trouble you with procuring the requisite specimens for an assay.

I am very Respectfully,
Your Obedt Servt
Saml Moore
Director.

No 2*

Thos Jefferson Esq
Monticello.

Sir,

It is not without hesitation and reluctance that I prefer a request, which will be the occasion of any intrusion on one who has acquired so high a claim to be exempted from intrusion; but I know not to whom I can address myself with the hope of obtaining information so accurate as you, I doubt not possess, on a subject to which I now respectfully solicit your attention.

The character of the impression emblematic of Liberty on coins, & not all coins, as I have

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia Feb 14th 1825

*These have been inserted on page 2.

seen, have been determined by specific instructions from the Government; nor has it been settled by any uniform practice. The journals of the Senate, and other notices of the proceedings of Congress, show that the head of the President was at first intended as the device for one side of the coins; and that the House of Representatives substituted the words now in the Law. But neither the journals, nor the brief notices which the papers contain of the debates of that period, give any indication of the precise emblem intended.

The first coins struck were cents in 1792, on which the emblem adopted was a female head, with hair wildly flying behind. In 1795 the cap of Liberty was introduced, supported on a wand projecting behind the head. In 1796 or '97 the cap was discarded, and has not since been restored.

In 1794 the first Silver coins were struck. The head of Liberty was here also adopted with flowing hair, without the accompaniment of a cap. This style was retained on the Silver coins, with slight modifications until about the year 1808, when Mr Patterson procured a more pleasing head of Liberty, and ornamented it with a dress, not intended, as I learn from the Officers of the Mint, to represent the cap of Liberty, nor approaching it in form, but taken from life, and considered a model, in good taste of the fashion of the time. The inscription of the word Liberty was, at the same period, transferred from the margin of the coin to the band of the cap. This head dress continues to the present day on the Silver coins since issued, but has never been adopted on the dollars, none having been struck, nor any new dies of that denomination made since 1805.

The first Gold coins were struck in 1795. The head on them was from the first ornamented with a cap head dress, not the Liberty cap in form, but probably one corresponding to the fashionable dress of the day. This continued till 1808, when the head dress of the gold coins was conformed to that adopted on the Silver. No Eagles have been struck since 1804. The improved head dress has not therefore been extended to them.

No cap has at any time been admitted on the head of the Copper coins; but about the time of the above improvements, the hair was gathered into neat order and the band of Liberty was adopted.

I have recited the above detail of facts, from the time the first coins were struck, to the time when the present style was adopted. I have done so, not to establish any particular view, but to show that the present style is not a new one, but one which has been in use for many years.

ances emanating from your authority, in or due to less in the trouble of recalling the train of them to your recollection.

It seems expedient, if indeed there is not an official obligation to complete the series of our dies, and the unsettled question what is the proper emblem of Liberty for our coins, is entitled to consideration before a new original die of our money unit is prepared. Permit me therefore to request information on the following points, as having a fair relation to the subject.

1. What figure, or device, may be considered as intended by Congress, or the administration at the establishment of the Mint by the words in the Law, "an impression emblematic of Liberty."

2. Was the cap of Liberty adopted or alluded to as a fit emblem, by any act of the Confederation, or of any of the States, or by popular usage, during the revolution, or previously to 1792, so that this device may be supposed to have been intended.

3. When emblems or representations of Liberty were in those times resorted to, on public occasions, of what description were they.

4. If the Liberty cap be the emblem intended in the Law, or if it be deemed an Americanized and suitable emblem, is it proper to place it on the head of the figure personifying Liberty.

Such information or suggestions as you may find it convenient to favour me with, will be thankfully received. When I am satisfied as to the impression emblematic of Liberty which can be sustained on the best ground, a few pattern pieces will be struck, to be submitted to the consideration of the Government, which if approved, or with such modifications as shall be directed, may fix the character of our coins.

Supposing the female head to be an appropriate figure, three views in relation to it present themselves. To adhere to the present dress cap, or copy it so nearly as not to exhibit the appearance of any specific change. To exclude the cap, and adopt an easy disposition of the hair, with no ornament but the band of Liberty. To adopt the classic style of cap, which though resembling the cap of Liberty nearly in form, would, nevertheless be distinguished from it by being worn on the head of the figure, if it be true that the cap of Liberty is out of place there. The first would be the easiest being a style familiar to the engraver of the Mint. The second, if happily executed, would perhaps be most pleasing as being more true to life & nature. The third of art derived from classic times.

I am with great respect
Yours Obedt Servt
Saml Moore

Hon. Richard Rush
Secy of the Treasury
Sir.

Mint of the United States
Philad^a July 8th 1828

I forward herewith letters to the Cashiers of the different Branches of the U. States Bank, who are among the persons whose answers on a variety of points relative to the receipting of foreign Gold and Silver coins, I wish to obtain. Please allow them to be transmitted under your frank. I shall occasionally forward packets with the same view, addressed to other individuals in different sections of the Union.

I am Respectfully
Your Obedt Serv^t
Sam^l Moore
Director.

No 22

Hon James Barlow
Secy of War.
Sir.

Mint of the United States
Philad^a July 7th 1828

By the present mail will be transmitted a Box containing 20 of the Indian medals of the first size. The same number of the second size will be forwarded next week. And the remainder of them, of the third size are so far advanced as to be furnished very soon if called for.

Very Respectfully
Your Obedt Serv^t
Sam^l Moore
Director

No 23

Hon James Barlow
Secy of War.
Sir.

Mint of the United States
Philad^a July 13th 1828

I am requested by Mr. C. Phelps to inform you that a Box containing 20 Indian medals of the first size was forwarded to the address of the department yesterday.

My absence from the city at the time, prevented my advising more promptly on the subject. A package, containing about the same number, of the second size, will, according to my letter of the 7th inst. be forwarded this week.

I take the liberty of troubling you on these occasions, not knowing, during the absence of Col. McKimney, whom I may properly address on subjects connected with the Office of Indian Affairs.

With great Respect

Your Obedt Serv^t
Sam^l Moore
Director

No 24

Hon. James Barlow
Secy of War.
Sir.

Mint of the United States
Philad^a July 15th 1828

By the present mail is forwarded to the address of the department, a Box, containing twenty six Indian medals of the second size; which, with the two Boxes of the first size, of twenty each, before mentioned as having been forwarded on the 7th and 12th insts. will close the delivery of those medals for a few days.

I am Very Respectfully
Your Obedt Serv^t
Sam^l Moore
Director

No 25

To J. H. Howland & Co. N. York. - August 1st 1828
Relates to a deposit of Silver. See File.

No 26

To W. Page, Cashier of Portland Bank. August 3rd 1828
Relates to a supply of cents and contains inquiries in regard to the circulation of foreign coins in that region.
See File.

No 47

Circular

To Register of Land Office
Su.Mint of the United States
Philad^a Aug^r 5th 1826

A Resolution of the Senate of the U. States calling for a report relative to the foreign Gold and Silver Coins current in any part of the U. States, renders it desirable to obtain information from authentic sources, on certain points, which your official station must bring within your notice.

Permit me therefore to request of you the favour to state what denominations of foreign Gold and Silver coins are current within your district. More especially be pleased to inform me what amount of foreign Gold coins has been received in payment for public lands therein, since the passage of the Act of March 3^d 1825, making certain Gold coins a legal tender for that special purpose. If the amount received in each year of that interval can be designated, the information will be still more valuable. If this cannot be accurately done, please to state it as nearly as may be, and also the whole amount of payments received within the same period in all descriptions of money.

Are the doubloons of Mexico and the other Republics of Spanish America received at the rate of the Gold coins of Spain? Are the dollars of those New Governments received at the same rate as ordinary Spanish dollars?

Please address as above, and enclose your communication under cover to the Hon^{ble} Richard Rush Secretary of the Treasury, Washington.

Very Respectfully,

Yours &c &c

Sam^l Moore

Director

No 48

To S. Mason Esq^r Detroit. August 9th 1826
Relates to a supply of coins. Su. FileMint of the United States
Philad^a August 10th 1826

No 49

W. W. Mead Esq^r
Su.

I avail myself of your kind offer, and commit to your attention the accompanying letters, for the purpose of their being transmitted through your friends in London.

Via Bragg. Be so good as to forward them with your next despatches. The subject in view is to obtain weights, corresponding precisely to the Mint actually used in the Mints of Mexico and Mexico.

In both instances, I have requested that the expense may be covered by drawing immediately on me at sight. But if this be impracticable, Mr Everett is requested to forward an account of expenses to Mr Rudolph for payment, as Mr Poinsett will to Mr Taylor, agreeably to your permission. Will you be pleased to apprise your friends of this circumstance?

I cannot conjecture what the expense of such transactions will be. The weights are to consist of Brass. It is presumed that twenty or thirty dollars in each instance would be a liberal allowance to meet all imaginable expenses and office fees. But whatever the expense may be, it will be promptly refunded by me here. The packet will be transmitted through the hands of your friends, unless in the case of Mr Poinsett, an opportunity presents by some gentleman directly to the U. States.

Very Respectfully,

Sam^l Moore

Director

No 50

To W. H. Bulany, Wythe Co. Virginia. August 15th 1826.
Relates to examination of Mineral. Su. File.

No 51

Mint of the United States
Philad^a Sept^r 7th 1826J. Mann Esq^r
Su.

On the subject of your note of yesterday I can give you only the following information.

Three pieces of Turkish Gold coins were sent me by the Secretary of the Treasury, on the 7th of March last for the purpose of determining the value of the Turkish Piastre. The most perfect was called Six Piastres, and weighed 12½ grains of which 10½ grains were found by the assay to be fine Gold. The value of it was therefore 42½ cents, and the Piastre by this trial would be 7½ cents, which is certainly by far too low. The other coins give still lower values.

I was of the opinion, on a careful investigation of the subject, that the coins called *Six Piastres* was the Rubick supposed to contain three Piastres, which would give for the value of the Piastre 147⁵⁰ cents. Its average value derived from this compared with former assays of the Rubick would be about 13⁵⁰ cents; which I presume is near the truth. Kelly, indeed gives 9 pence stating as its value in 1826, but by reducing a variety of his rates of exchange between Constantinople and other commercial cities, I found the average value of the Piastre approach very nearly to 13⁵⁰ cents. All these points were reported to the Secretary of the Treasury; and to the Committee of Finance of the Senate on the 15th of March.

Nothing has since occurred to change or to confirm my opinion of the value of the Piastre; but I can not determine the question strictly, unless some of the genuine Turkish coins of known value in Piastres can be furnished for a more conclusive assay. That the piece in question was really one of those Piastres, though exceedingly probable, in my estimation is not absolutely known.

I have had no opportunity of testing the value of the Piastre by an assay of the Turkish Silver coins.

Very Respectfully
Your Obedt. Servt
Saml. Moore
Director

No 52 To W. Ho. Coffin, P. M. Hudson, N. York. Oct. 25th 1826
Relates to a supply of cents. See File

No 53 To Elisha Hall, South Barnstable, Mass. Oct. 28th 1826
Relates to the examination of a mineral. See File.

No 54 To the Secretary of the Treasury Decem^r. 29th 1826
Acknowledging the receipt of a specimen of Copper Ore See File

Mint of the United States
Philad^a Jan 7th 1827

Hon. Richard Rush
Secy of the Treasury

I have now the satisfaction to communicate the result of an examination of the ore of Copper sent to the Department by the Hon. Mr. Williams, and transmitted with your letter of the 27th ultimo.

This Ore is the green carbonate of copper, called Malachite. A large proportion of the mass received, consists of extraneous earthy and ferruginous matter without value. The whole was however pulverized together, presuming that it might be considered a fair specimen of the mineral as raised from the mine. The result of two reductions of equal portions of the mass, made carefully by Mr. Cloud, gives between 25 and 26 per cent of good malleable Copper.

A specimen of the metal obtained is herewith forwarded, conformably to your request. This ore is among the most easy of reduction; and affords Copper less impure than the ordinary ores.

Yours Very Respectfully
Saml. Moore
Director

No. 56, 57 To Hon. J. Smith, Jan 20th 1827. Sales & Seaton, Jan 20th 1827. Sales & Seaton, Jan 20th 1827. Respecting proof sheets &c. of a report on foreign coins. See File

No 58 To Hon. Lewis Williams, Jan 30th 1827
Respecting Copper Ore See File and File

No 59 To Gottfried Böcher February 25th 1827
Acknowledging a Bundle of Steel for dies. See File

No 60 To Cashier of the Bank of Portland, Maine, March 5th 1827
Relates to a deposit of Silver See File

No 53 To D. Hensdale. June 1st 1827. Concerning transactions with
Samuel B. Williams
See File

No 54 To T. G. Hathaway, New York. June 13th 1827
Forwarding a certificate
See File

No 55 To J. B. Scott, Cashier of the Canal Bank, Portland June 15th 1827
Relates to a supply of cents.
See File

No 56
Mint of the United States
Philad^a August 31st 1827
Matthew R. Bolton Esq
Coke Mint

See
Considering it not improbable that an extension of the power of this establishment may at no distant period be authorized with some modifications of it, I am desirous of learning more particularly the Character of your improved combinations for the purpose of coining by Steam power, of which fame speaks so highly. Will you do me the favour, therefore, by an early opportunity, to inform me relative thereto, and particularly on the following points.

1. What amount of coinage is effected in a given time by an engine of a given power, say for example a ten horse power? Please illustrate this by the number of Gold and Silver pieces of specified denominations, which are, in regular operations, executed per hour.

2. What is the lowest power of an engine which you have thus applied to Coinage? Has its operation satisfactory? And what was its productiveness?

3. Does this specified power perform the preparatory operations also of rolling, drawing, milling &c. or only the single operation of coining? Is a separate engine indispensable for those preparatory operations? How, these operations are now effected by Steam power.

4. What dimensions of an apartment would be adequate to accommodate the coining machinery complete, of four presses adapted to the coinage of your half crown pieces? I suppose in this case that only the press and this

appropriate machinery are in the apartment; the engine &c. occupying a detached space.

5. It is understood that your house reserves a special property in that part of your Mint machinery which is peculiar. Please inform me of the terms on which you furnish that system of machinery in which your improvements are embraced, and the time requisite for its erection, for a given number of presses. If you are accustomed to communicate for an adequate compensation such drawings and instructions as may enable foreign artists to construct the machinery in question, please mention your rate in that respect.

6. Is the operation of your machinery for coinage liable to few irregularities, by which the accurate application of the die would be deranged, the coin defaced, or the machinery injured?

Such descriptions, drafts, and explanations as can properly be given, tending more fully to exhibit the general arrangement of parts, the area occupied, and any particulars which will assure me more fully of all that the machinery actually performs, will be acceptable. Anticipating the pleasure of hearing from you as soon as convenient.

I am Respectfully

Your Obedt^t Serv^t

Saml. Moore

Director

No 57 To M. Mount, Cashier of Bank of Utica. Sept 7th 1827
Relates to a supply of cents
See File

No 58 To Messrs. Castille & Henniquet J. R. Sept 12th & Sept 22nd 1827
Relates to a Certificate of Gold & a map of Platinum. See file

No 59
Mint of the United States
Philad^a Oct. 11th 1827
Messrs. Castille & Henniquet.
Gentlemen.

Yours of yesterday is at hand. It was not until this day that it has been in my power to inform you of the result of the analysis of the metallic button left here.

and the answer to your enquiry respecting platinum was properly deferred, to be communicated by the same occasion.

The button on a very successful analysis has excused our hopes; producing 3oz. 19 dwt. 22 grs. Standard Gold, which after deducting 2 ounces for the error mentioned in my last, leaves a balance of 1oz. 19 dwt. 22 grs. value \$35.48 which being a small consideration; and for the purpose of closing the account, you may draw at pleasure on James Rusk, Treasurer of the Mint, at sight.

I cannot, on inquiry, find any grounds for encouraging the importation of platinum for this market; the quantity used is so very small, and could be no object worthy of attention. In the condition in which it is often found in commerce, it would be difficult to dispose of; and even in a state fitted for immediate use, a very small quantity would leave a surplus above the demand.

Very Respectfully
Yours &c
Saml. Moore
Director

No 71 To E. Chauncy, Cashier of the Bank of Pennsylvania, Nov: 5th 1827
Relates to a deposit of Silver see File.

No 72 To W. Page, Cashier of the Bank of Rutland &c. Nov: 24th 1827
Relates to a supply of cents. see File

No 73 Mint of the United States
Phila. Dec: 28th 1827
Mr. E. B. Collicott
Sir.

My absence for a few days from the city has prevented an earlier attention to yours of the 20th requesting information relative to the consumption of copper at the Mint. I now with pleasure reply to your inquiries.

That item of the imports for the year ending the 30th September 1826, to which you refer, has been founded, I presume, on erroneous returns from some of the Custom Houses. The amount of copper imported for the Mint within that period

was \$19,870. all of which came as usual from Liverpool.

If any of the copper imported for the use of the Mint has been exported, it must have been in the form of coins. I think it more probable that this item also, has resulted from some misconception. Shortly after our recent conversation, I obtained a copy of the report in question, and the above points have been presented to the notice of the Department.

The amount of copper imported annually for the use of the Mint, from the year 1820 to 1827 both inclusive has averaged about 38,500 pounds avoirdupois, at a cost, including loss on exchange and all charges, of 3 1/2 cents per pound, very nearly; making an annual amount of, say \$12,000. The cost of the importation for this year, taken singly, has been 29 1/2 cts per pound.

This copper is of very good quality, in planchets or discs, of the requisite weight, blank milled, and properly annealed and cleaned.

A cent must weigh 7 pennyweights or 158 grains Troy. In a pound avoirdupois, which contains 7000 Troy grains there are consequently 11 1/3 cents.

To be supplied with copper in planchets, lessens very much the interference of the copper coinage with that of the precious metals. It is not probable, therefore, that the Government will direct the purchase of copper for coinage in sheets.

A machine for cutting out cent planchets, and one for milling them may be estimated to cost from \$350 to \$500. Two hands would cut out in a day 35,000 pieces, and one hand could mill 20,000 pieces. These are medium estimates, when the hands have become expert.

The above remarks must the points embraced by your enquiry, and may suffice for the basis of a general estimate. Further explanations which you may find necessary will be freely communicated.

When convenient, please forward me a specimen of your ore, and of the copper it produces.

Very Respectfully
Yours &c
Saml. Moore
Director

No 74

Hon. John Sergeant, Wash.

Dear Sir,

Mint of the United States
Phila. d^c. Jan 7th 1828

Yours of the 7th was received yesterday. I thank you for having introduced the subject of the Mint, and will write you fully in regard to it in a few days.

Three topics will merit consideration. The continuance of the Mint here, either for a limited time or indefinitely. Further legal enactments in regard to points on which the existing provisions are silent, or inadequate. And an extension of the accommodations of the Mint at its present site, or the erection of suitable buildings in a new position. Whether it will be most expedient to present the first singly, to the House you will determine.

The annual report of the transactions of the Mint was sent forward very recently, and is now with the President or Secretary of the Treasury. I have supposed that a brief notice of the progressive operations of the Mint from their commencement, would be acceptable, and have therefore presented such a statement in this report.

Yours with much esteem

Sam^l Moore

Director

No 75

Mint of the United States
Phila. d^c. Jan 7th 1828

Hon. John Sergeant, Wash.

Dear Sir,

By Monday at furthest, I shall communicate such suggestions as seem entitled to consideration relative to the administration of the Mint. In the mean time would it not be advisable to introduce a bill, presenting alone the question of its continuance here? The desired modification of the law regulating the Mint, would form perhaps more suitably, a separate bill; and a section might be subjoined, when thought expedient, embracing the appropriation requisite to improve our accommodations. The decision on this last matter was finally deferred, it is presumed, on the manner in which the first point is settled. What you consider best, however, please in this regard.

Yours with esteem

Sam^l Moore, Director

No 76

Mint of the United States
Phila. d^c. Jan 7th 1828

Hon. Albert Gallatin, Wash.

Sir,

Hoping that before this I should have had an opportunity of a personal interview with you here, I have hitherto deferred to inform you of the circumstances under which the Troy pound weight, procured for the Mint, through your attention, was first presented to view.

Conformably to the intention expressed in my letter of the 15th Sept: addressed to you in London, and which I presume has reached you since your return, the containing casket, enveloped as when I received it, was submitted to the inspection of the President of the United States on his return through this City to Washington, on the 12th October. The seals and endorsement of the envelope were readily recognized by him as yours. The seals were then broken in his presence, and the casket opened. The weight was found in perfect order and preservation, presenting a beautiful specimen of workmanship in itself, and in the skilfully devised casket in which it was contained. A formal attestation by the President of your seals and handwriting on the envelope, and your hand writing on the copious certificate furnished by you, is annexed to the voucher from yourself and Capt. Stator. The whole has remained in my custody, guarded with every care to the present time. In reviewing all the circumstances of the transaction, I accord entirely in a remark made in your private letter to me of the 28th of July last as to the difficulty of replacing this weight by another equally entitled to our confidence.

In my letter of the 15th Sept: a wish was expressed to be permitted to appropriate your letter marked private, with the public vouchers which accompanied it. It bears implicitly on the subject of this weight and loses nothing of its value by having been intended only as a familiar recital of incidents relating to it. You will oblige me by signifying your acquiescence in this wish, if it be not objectionable in your opinion.

A committee of Congress has been appointed on the subject of the Mint, and I am now preparing to submit to their consideration the expediency of designating this specific pound weight as the standard for the regulation of our coinage.

I am, Sir, respectfully,

Yours Obedt^{ly}Sam^l Moore

Wm. John Sergeant, Clerk
 do.

Mint of the United States
 Philad^a Jan^y 15th 1828

I avail myself, agreeably to your invitation, of the occasion presented by the appointment of a committee on the Mint, to suggest the utility of some further legal provisions relative thereto.

In regard to the leading point embraced by the resolution, an extension of the law for continuing the Mint in this city, no observations are perhaps necessary. Presuming that no change of location will be deemed conducive to the public interest, I forbear making any remarks on that topic, unless called for by the committee; and confine myself to those particulars, in regard to which experienced and solicitous reflections enable me to recommend some modification of, or additions to, the existing enactments. Those particulars will be presented in numerical order for the facility of referring to them, and in relation to each the requisite explanations will be subsequently annexed.

An act which should contain in substance the following provisions, would be beneficially felt in the administration of the affairs of the Mint, with the requisite precision and efficiency.

1. That for the purpose of securing a due conformity in the weight of the coins of the United States, to the provisions of the 9th section of the act of April 20th 1792, the brass Troy pound procured by the minister of the United States at London in the year 1827 for the use of the Mint, and now in the custody of the Director thereof being a true copy, satisfactorily attested of the Parliamentary Troy pound of the year 1758 shall be the Standard Troy pound of the Mint of the United States, conformably to which the coinage thereof shall be regulated.

2. That it shall be the duty of the Director of the Mint to procure and keep safely a series of weights corresponding to the aforesaid Troy pound, consisting of a one pound weight with the requisite subdivisions and multiples thereof, from the hundredth part of a grain to twenty five pounds; and that the hundredth part of a grain to twenty five pounds, of the Troy weights, ordinarily employed in the transactions of the Mint, shall be regulated according thereto, at least once in every year under his inspection, and their accuracy tested in presence of the assay commissioners on the day of the annual assay.

3. That the Gold and Silver coins issued by the Treasurer of the Mint for the aforesaid annual assay, conformably to the provisions of the 18th section of the aforesaid act, shall be tried in presence of the Officers designated for that purpose, both in regard to fineness and weight: and if the Gold coins when assayed shall be found inferior in fineness to the legal standard thereof, more than one part in two hundred and eighty eight parts: Or the Silver coins, when assayed, shall be found inferior in fineness to the legal standard thereof, more than one part in two hundred and forty parts: Or if the Gold coins shall, in the weight thereof, fall short of the weight required by law, more than one part in one thousand parts: Or the Silver coins, more than one part in five hundred parts, it shall be certified to the President of the United States, and the Officer or Officers, whom it may concern, shall be deemed disqualified to hold their respective offices: but if the inferiority shall not be found greater than in the aforesaid proportions severally, then the said Officer or Officers shall be held excusable: Provided however that if any delivery of Gold coins from the Mint in payment of a deposit, shall in the aggregate weight thereof, be inferior to the weight required by law in a greater proportion than one part in ten thousand parts: or any delivery of Silver coins in payment of a deposit inferior to the weight required by law, in a greater proportion than one part in five thousand parts, the Officer whom it may concern shall be held liable to the owner thereof for the amount of such inferiority.

4. That when Silver bullion brought to the Mint for coinage is found to require the operation of the test, the expense of the materials employed in the process, together with a reasonable allowance for the wastage necessarily arising therefrom, to be determined by the Melters and Refiners of the Mint, with the approbation of the Director, shall be retained from said deposit and accounted for by the Treasurer of the Mint to the Treasury of the United States.

5. That when Silver bullion brought to the Mint for coinage is found to contain a proportion of Gold, the separation thereof shall be effected at the expense of the party interested therein: Provided however that when the proportion of Gold is such, that it cannot be advantageously separated, it shall be lawful, with the consent of the said party, or in his absence, at the discretion of the Director, to coin the same as an ordinary deposit of Silver.

6. That the Director of the Mint may employ the necessary clerks, with a compensation not exceeding in the whole seven hundred dollars; and as many workmen and at

tendants, as the business of the Mint shall require, and may with the approval of the President of the United States, appoint an assistant Assayer, an assistant Coiner, an assistant Engraver, and an assistant Melter and Refiner, when such assistants shall be found necessary respectively, with a compensation proportioned to the duties performed; to be approved by the President of the United States.

7 That the Assistant Assayer may receive and assay bullion not intended for coinage, and give certificates of the fineness thereof, at such rates of charge, to be paid by the owners of said bullions, and under such regulations, as the Director of the Mint may establish.

8 That the Copper coins issued from the Mint shall be paid by the Treasurer thereof into the Treasury of the United States; or distributed at the expense and risk of the government, under such regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe.

On the foregoing provisions, I beg leave to offer the following remarks in this order.

1 That the weights intended in the Act of April 1792 establishing the Mint, an parts of the Troy pound is manifest; but no specific standard by which the weights, used in the Mint could be tested, has ever been designated. The weights actually used in the Mint are of uncertain origin, though some of them are supposed to have been compared with the standard in the British Mint; no voucher of the fact remains, if it ever accompanied them. I have felt much solicitation on this subject, but until recently, had no standard of such authority, that I could ascertain, to subject them to examination by means of the weights employed in the Mint for nearly thirty years without regulation.

Under a resolution of the Senate of May 10th 1825 it became my duty, to examine with all practicable accuracy the weight of the foreign coins, circulating in the United States. In order to obtain the means of executing this duty with more precision, I availed myself of the departure, very soon afterwards, of Mr. Gallatin for London, to solicit his attention, to the procuring a perfect copy of the standard Troy pound of 1758.

Anticipated incidents retarded the accomplishment, for a whole year, of the object so much desired, but this delay has been amply compensated by the eventual fulfillment with incomparable precision, through the attention of

Captain Kater, a name of the highest authority in whatever relates to the subject of weights and measures. The admirable manner in which the truth of it was determined by him, and the conclusive vouchers, from himself and Mr. Gallatin, leave nothing to be desired in this regard. The weight was delivered into my hands by a public messenger of the government in a basket sealed and endorsed by Mr. Gallatin, whose seal and hand writing was identified by the President to whom they were exhibited, on his passing through this city, in October last, before the seal was broken. It has never since been out of my custody to the present time. A copy more perfect of the only true standard Troy pound is perhaps nowhere in existence. It would be difficult to obtain another equally accurate; and scarcely less difficult to combine an equal concentration of testimony to authenticate at once its identity and truth.

I have designated the original, as the Parliamentary Troy pound of 1758. It is however well known that the same identical brass Troy pound is that which was adopted by the British government in 1824 as their standard unit of weight.

2 The second provision, it is probable will be acceptable if the first should prove so. It is not the least important feature of it, that the Commissioners of the annual assay are made inspectors of the accuracy of the weights used. Without a special period assigned for such duties, they are liable to be procrastinated and forgotten. The present assay Commissioners are designated in the act of Jan^y 14th 1818 and are the District Judge, Collector of the Port, and District Attorney.

3 The remedy for the protection of the Office in regard to casual or unintentional errors, is by the present Law, one in one hundred and forty four, Sec 18th Sec. of April 2nd 1792. It has been doubted whether this includes any allowance except for deviations in fineness. The terms of the Law bear but that construction. It has been understood however, I believe generally by the assay Commissioners to include the aggregate deviations of the coin from its legal value, thus including fineness and weight. It is however too liberal if it never was considered to include both. A remedy in weight is absolutely necessary, for perfect accuracy in this respect is not attainable without such a studious and expensive on every piece as would render the Mint very expensive or wholly unproductive.

The remedy now proposed for gold in fineness gives one half the latitude of the present. Silver requires a more liberal remedy than gold, the precision of the assay in it, being incapable of equal precision and constancy. The remedy in weight

is less liberal than in the English or French, perhaps less liberal than might be proper; as the penalty under the present law is extremely severe, and apparently admits of no mitigation. I have not ventured to propose any modification in this respect. The Officer concerned is content to abide by it, and no doubt will generally come far within the limit.

It is to be observed that the latitude offered by all the allowances now proposed, is only a cover for unintentional or casual errors. The purpose of the Officer is to come up precisely to the requisitions of the Law; sometimes, consequently, transgressing the line and sometimes falling short. The 14th section of the act of April 2nd. 1792, enjoins on them the execution of the coins as nearly as may be to their legal weight and fineness; to the observance of this, as of all the other Laws bearing on their duties they are bound under oath. And besides, for any wilful deviation from the legal standard and weight of the coins, they are liable to very severe inflictions. Formerly this was a capital offence by the 14th section of the aforesaid act. But this was changed for the more practicable infliction provided by the 24th section of act of March 3^d. 1825 for the punishment of crimes against the United States.

4. This provision appears to be a just one. Occasionally, bullion is brought to the Mint in a State, to incur a considerable loss by wastage before it is reduced to the condition of ordinary deposits. The cost of the materials, is already by existing provisions charged to the depositor. In proposing this amendment to them, it may be proper to remark, that the government supplies no Gold or Silver to the Mint. It is wholly derived from other sources, and brought to the United States under various forms in the returns of commerce. Liberal facilities therefore, for rendering such returns available by the agency of the Mint, have marked the measures of the government hitherto. This consideration would not be disregarded, and would forbid applying the provision, if adopted to any rigorous extent.

5. Silver, containing a small quantity of Gold will probably often be brought to the Mint. Many of the Spanish Dollars contain a small quantity of it. The usual process to which Silver bullion is subjected, ~~is~~ will not detect its presence. The purpose however, of the present provision is, that when the existence of Gold in Silver is known, if it be in so small a proportion to bear the separation with profit, the whole

may be coined as Silver. The spirit and object of the Law is respected in such coinage. It is the very reverse of an adulteration of the national coin; but the letter of the law requires that every dollar shall contain 371 1/2 grains of pure silver; a very minute portion of this weight in the coinage, alluded to, would be pure Gold. Two cases of some moment have recently occurred, involving this question. The adoption of the principles recommended will probably obviate other embarrassing applications.

6. The second section of the Act of April 2nd. 1792 authorizes the employment by the Director, with the approbation of the President, of the requisite clerks and workmen. After the removal of the government, this power has been exercised by the Director alone; the refinement of the subject to the President in the frequent changes which occur among the men employed in the Mint being impracticable; the appointment of clerks and workmen should be considered as pertaining wholly to the Director. No new appointment is contemplated. The law at present permits the Director to expend 1700 dollars in Clerk hire. It is not however so expended; nor has more than half that amount been expended for that object, for some years past. The power to appoint assistants in the various departments of the Mint I am anxious to have confided either to the Director alone, or to him under the approbation of the President. It has, under former Directors, been done in both modes. Unless some exigency not in immediate prospect should occur, no appointment would follow this permission, except in the assayers department; in which such an adjunct is nothing short of being indispensable to preserve us from the hazard of being suddenly arrested in our operations. I will not dilate on this any further now, but conclude on this point, with an earnest expression of my conviction that the power of introducing into the principal departments of the Mint competent assistants, when the exigencies demanding the measure shall arrive, is of vital importance to the officiating of the Mint in the coming years.

7. If this provision be adopted, it will enable me to obtain the aid of an assistant assayer, with a very small compensation at the public expense; and will also save to the Mint the expense occasionally of coining bullion, the owner of which has no object but to have its quality, so that it may be sold to some of the artists of the city. The present law does not permit the assayer of the Mint to assay bullion not intended for coinage.

8. The manner in which the copper coins of the United States are distributed is perhaps a judicious and effective as any which can be devised. It is such as I doubt not

fine, leaving a material, which when pulverized is sensibly affected by the magnet.

This is a very delusive mineral, often presenting beautiful surfaces, and an attractive lustre; but cannot be rendered beneficially productive. As an iron ore it is one of the least profitable and your friend may rest assured, it does not merit his further attention.

The importance of developing the character of the minerals of our country, will secure to all applications, having that object in view, a cheerful attention at the Mint. Our former intercourse, and the remembrance connected with it, add to the pleasure with which your requests, on such occasions are complied with. I often recur to that period; and the kind terms in which you refer to it is highly gratifying.

With Respect and Esteem
Yours truly
Sam^l Moore
Director

No 80

Mint of the United States
Philad^a Jan^y 22^d 1828

Hon^{ble} to Lyon Sir

Yours of the 18th was received yesterday, and I cheerfully comply with your request.

The works treating properly of Metallurgy are mostly in foreign languages, generally old and rare, and very difficult to be found in the United States, except in a few private hands, and in public Libraries. Cramer's art of assaying is I think on the whole, the best work for the object in view. It embraces most of the ores of the more important metals, and evinces a very extensive knowledge of the subject, though his explanations seem uncouth at the present day. Of this there is an English translation. Its copy is, I believe to be had, but by importing it, the ex- pense perhaps, five or six dollars. There is also a work by Baron Born prepared by order of the Emperor of Germany. Of this there is an English translation of the date of 1791, to be had only by importing it. I believe the price about the same as Cramer's. It gives the processes now almost universally employed for Gold and Silver ores, according to the best authorities, including those Spanish writers of high repute mentioned by Humboldt in his work in New Spain. In Poinsett's notes on Mexico, we have a familiar account of the methods

pursued in that country for Gold and Silver; and Humboldt, in his work above mentioned, gives these processes also.

The works of Cramer and Born would afford your friend as useful information as can be well obtained from books. Practical artists are indispensable in actual operations. If you wish these works imported, it can be accomplished through Mr. Duffie of this City, who is accustomed to procure rare works from abroad.

Permit me to recommend, before much expense is incurred a strict investigation of the character of the ore in question. Those of very alluring aspect, often prove to be of little value. If you can procure, and forward to me a few ounces of the ore, precisely in the form in which it comes from the earth, I will with pleasure have its character ascertained at the Mint, and communicate to you the result.

Very Respectfully
Yours &c.
Sam^l Moore

No 81

Mint of the United States
Philad^a Jan^y 24th 1828

Hon^{ble} John Sergeant,
Cham^{ber} of Com^{merce} on Mint.

Sir,

Your letter requesting on behalf of the committee on the Mint, an explanation of some of the points submitted to their consideration, was received yesterday. In reply, I beg leave respectfully to state.

The remedy of the English Mint for Gold is in fineness 1 in 384. That of the French Mint, 1 in 500. I propose 1 in 288 instead of 1 in 144 as at present.

The remedy of the English Mint for Silver is in fineness 1 in 240. That of the French Mint, 1 in 333, I propose 1 in 240 instead of 1 in 144 as at present.

The limit of 1 in 144 allowed in the Law of 1792 was the remedy of the English Mint at that period. It presents too lax a rule, even having regard to the penalty on its violation, for though it should be construed as declared to embrace the sum of the deviations both in fineness and weight, it would still be accountable as an allowance for fineness alone, provided the weight should prove correct; and for weight alone, if the fineness should be correct.

The allowance I propose of 1 in 288 in fineness for Gold, and 1 in 240 in fineness for Silver is reasonable, the penalty

remaining as it is. The Apayer is perfectly content to abide by it, and will no doubt, come far within the rule, and very rarely deviate in any appreciable degree from the actual standard. But under thin circumstances, a more strict limit would not be equitable.

Your present inquiry relates however chiefly to the allowance in weight. My suggestion that the limit named was more rigorous than might be proper, the severe penalty for casual transgression being considered, was directed rather against the unbending character of that penalty. I did not propose any mitigation of it; nor do I now because none occurs to me, that is satisfactory. Nor did I feel satisfied to propose a more liberal allowance, because on carefully discussing the question with the Officer concerned, he appeared to desire that the limit should be as stated. On full reconsideration of the case, however, I think it due to him to ask leave to modify the allowance on weight; or to request the Committee to recommend a less inflexible form of penalty. But you request my decided opinion. It is, that the penalty should remain unaltered; and the remedy in weight be 1 in 500 for Gold; and 1 in 250 for Silver. The substitution of these proportions, instead of 1 in 1000 for Gold, and 1 in 500 for Silver, will place the Officers on ground which is not too hazardous.

The allowance at the British Mint in weight for Gold is 1 in 480 and for Silver 1 in 240. The allowance at the French Mint, in weight for Gold is 1 in 500. That for Silver differs in the different coins, and on an average may be stated at about 1 in 320. Our remedy in weight, as proposed, will still appear somewhat more rigorous than the English in both Gold and Silver; and in Silver more rigorous than the French; that of Gold being the same. The comparison, however, can not be accurately made, as the manner of applying the remedy is not precisely the same. With us it is applicable to the result of the annual assay alone, in which a few pieces, taken promiscuously from the coins delivered every week, and retained in the custody of the Treasurer of the Mint, are submitted once to examination. How the allowance of the French Mint is applied, I am not informed. The English Mint allowance is applied at each single delivery of coins; affording therefore a less perfect average. They have also, a few coins reserved from each delivery for an occasional public trial, called the trial of the Oze, corresponding in effect to our annual assay. The penalty by the regulations of the British Mint, if the coins

delivered from time to time are not within the remedy, is understood to be their recoinage at the expense of the Officer. The penalty in the event of the coins not sustaining the trial of the Oze, it is understood is at the discretion of the King.

I have suggested a restriction relative to the delivery of coins to depositors, which has not before had a place in our Law, but is nevertheless equitable, and accords with the terms of provision.

The power of appointing an assistant artist in the various departments of the Mint, was considered as residing in the Director, with the approbation of the President, until very recently. Mr. Eckfeldt, now the Chief Coiner of the Mint was appointed under this construction, an assistant coiner, during the administration of Gen. Washington, and discharged an important share of the duties of that department, Mr. Voight being Chief Coiner; until in 1814, on the death of the latter he became his successor. He has performed the duties hitherto, without an assistant. Under the Directorship of my predecessor, Mr. Reich was, with the approbation of Mr. Jefferson, appointed assistant engraver, which place he retained about eight or ten years.

In August 1825, in consequence of a purchase, then entertained, of renovating the series of our dies, of which some had been long obsolete, and introducing on our coins an impression better suited to the improved state of the arts among us, an application was made to the President for his approbation of the appointment of an Assistant Engraver. On a full consideration, however, it was his opinion that the law did not authorize it without a preceding appropriation, specifically for that object. This construction of the Law, which is I presume the true one, will occasionally involve embarrassing difficulties in the administration of the affairs of the Mint, under certain contingencies, which may arise at a moment when the preliminary measures cannot be resorted to.

In the Assayer and Engraver's departments, which involve nice and essential duties, requiring an aptitude possessed by very few, and attainable only by much time specially devoted thereto; a brief inability from sickness of one of those Officers, especially the Assayer, would arrest the operations of the Mint, or leave them pendant on the appointment of an Assistant. In the Office of Chief Coiner and Melter and Refiner, the effect of their inadvertence, attention being withdrawn, would be less suddenly felt. The appointment of an Assistant however, ^{might} ~~might~~ ^{relieve} ~~relieve~~ ^{from} the burden of their duties, when sickness, advancing age, and weakened powers of action

only require it, would find its reward in a larger proportion of their services and skill. The alternative seems to be, the removal, after a short delay, of the principal Officer, and the appointment of a successor: a measure not a little won towards one whose services may have been very faithfully devoted to the public.

Estimating from analogies with the past periods, it is probable that our average coinage during the coming ten years will exceed 2,500,000 dollars annually; and that we shall be liable to a pressure in some years of that period nearly double that sum; the necessity of an Assistant in several of the departments would be manifest, with a less pressure on the Mint than the extreme supposed, even if the intervening years should take nothing from the active powers of the present officers.

For the further satisfaction of the Committee I will state more explicitly the probability of an appointment being made in any of the departments should the provision in view be adopted. The Assayer, Mr. Richardson is very far advanced in life: his valuable services have been enjoyed by the Mint since the close of the Presidency of Gen. Washington; he still assiduously attends to them: but I feel strongly the necessity of placing at his side an Assistant, to perfect himself by his skill; and save the operations of the Mint from extreme embarrassment by any indisposition of the Assayer even of a few days. This has never yet happened for three days at any one time. On this Office we rely almost daily, to determine the value of bullion deposited; and every day to determine the standard of the Ingots prepared for coinage; duties extremely nice and critical, and in which an error is visited with much severity. The adoption of the principle would be soon followed by the employment of an Assistant, who should so far subject himself to the control of Mr. Richardson, that the latter would assume all the responsibility for his proceedings. The expense incurred by this appointment, would probably for the first year not exceed 1000 dollars; and subsequently, not exceed 600, with the privilege of Assaying bullion not intended for coinage. His employment, besides the advantages just mentioned, of having his services at a low compensation, offers an opportunity to improve and perfect his acquaintance with these very delicate processes more rapidly.

As to the department of the Engraver, my wish remains unimpaired to effect an improvement in our dies. The engraving

of this is however, not sufficient to demand the appointment of an Assistant before the requisite estimates would be submitted to Congress for another year, unless in the event of some occurrence depriving us of the services of the present Engraver, no further appropriation would be asked for at this session. I am not certain that the artist, whose services appear to me specially desirable in this view, can be obtained for much less than the salary of the present Engraver of the Mint \$1200. An appropriation was made last year; and the sum asked for this year of \$600 for this object, none of it has been expended; and I am now satisfied that it will not be accepted. This was the compensation given to Mr. Reich as Assistant Engraver.

An indisposition of long continuance of Mr. Eckfeldt the Chief Coiner, or a heavy demand for coinage would alone induce me to demand an appointment in his department. He does not now wish for an Assistant. If one should be appointed his compensation would not exceed 800 or 1000 dollars, I presume, which is the highest Mr. Eckfeldt had in that station. In the department of the Milled and Refined, the contingency is apparently more remote than in either of the others; and should an Assistant become necessary, the character of his duties, in a department far less complex than that of the Chief Coiner, would not, I think, entitle him to more than 800 dollars. It is not probable that more than two of these Assistants would be, at any one time employed, unless it were in consequence of a permanent very considerable increase of the supply of bullion for coinage.

I cannot more clearly express, than in the above remarks, my views of the value of the person proposed to be employed. It is far from being a pleasant duty to present this subject for consideration; and unless the reasons for it are so far satisfactory to the Committee, as to induce their cordial acquiescence in its propriety, I would prefer that provision being omitted. In that case, in regard to the Assayer's department, under the discretion which the provision for employing workmen necessarily involves, I should employ an Assistant at the moderate compensation first mentioned, which is not equal to the wages of some of our best workmen; for such a portion of his time as without further privilege or emolument can be obtained.

If it would better accord with the judgment of the Committee to omit what relates, by name, to the Assistant Assayer, the Director of the Mint may employ the necessary Clerks with a compensation not exceeding 1700 dollars; and such Assistant artists, workmen and attendants as the business of the Mint shall

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require? it would be sufficient. In a sudden emergency, a temporary assistant would be employed; and his compensation, ad interim, paid as an item of incidental expenditure, until the following session of Congress, when if the expediency of his employment continued to be manifest the requisite compensation would be submitted to the house, and he sanctioned or rejected as should seem just.

I trouble the committee very reluctantly with the suggestion of measures, which require so tedious a detail of reasons to sustain their propriety; but am not conscious of attaching more value to the suggestions than is just.

If the committee should be satisfied that the power to appoint such assistants ought to be confined to either of the manners proposed, I would respectfully request that the specific compensation may not be named. It would never exceed the extremes mentioned in the several cases unless previously sanctioned by Congress; and if not specified would be more likely to fall within them.

Yours &c

Sam^l. Moore
Director.

Mint of the United States
Philad^a. Jan^y 25th 1828

116
Wm. John Sargent

Dear Sir,

In my remarks of yesterday, I omitted some particulars which may be satisfactory to you to be mentioned.

The restriction proposed on the inferiority in weight of coins, delivered in payment of deposits, has the beneficial tendency of a very limited allowance for errors of that kind. To come within the rule, the average weight of silver coins must not deviate more than about 10 of a grain in a dollar from the legal weight; and the gold coins not more than about the 30 of a grain in the Eagle. Individual coins will differ necessarily of course either in excess or defect. The steadfast aim being to attain the precise weight, not too light, some of our deliveries will a little exceed the true weight, and some fall a little short. When our weights are adjusted to an invariable standard, according to which their minute accuracy can be perpetuated, I feel confident that the average weight of our coins taken through-

out the year, would not deviate more than the hundredth part of a grain in the dollar or Eagle from the true legal weight. The deviation would, probably, be in excess, the aim being as before stated to attain on the average the true weight not too light.

In my remarks on the appointment of assistants, it has not been my aim to diminish an objectionable aspect of it by concealing the probable expense. If the artist I have in view, can be secured to the engraving department, his qualifications would secure for the measure the approbation of those who know him, and his various attainments would probably make his aid available in place of one of the other assistants contemplated if the necessity for employing such should arise. If he cannot be obtained the engraving department would probably remain as it is, except in the event of incidental occurrences. Should our Mint operations be further extended, as many indications give reason to expect, the absolute expense must of course be greater; the percentage of charge would however diminish; and on this I would remark, that when we shall be called on for four or five millions of coinage in a year, an exact organization of the department, by placing competent assistants where needed, would rather lessen than increase the annual expense. My wish will be obtained if the power of making those appointments when necessary is conferred; but the occasions justly requiring its exercise, can not be all enumerated or foreseen, it is requested only on public considerations, and will not be lightly exerted. I feel conscious of the wish, and sensible, I trust to all the proper motives which should inspire it, to discharge efficiently the delicate and peculiar trust reposed in the Director of the Mint, with the approbation of those who are rightfully the guardians of the public expenditure.

It may be satisfactory to remark, that the whole expenditure of the Mint for the past year has been about \$36,000. The coinage, you will have noticed, exceeds 3,000,000, and the coinage nearly all silver. There is no example known to me of a result at all corresponding in foreign Mints. Even with the advantage of an amount coined vastly superior to ours which diminishes the percentage, the ordinary expense of a silver coinage is 16 per cent. There is an amount of wastage arising on the above coinage not included in the \$36,000, it will be about 5700 on the 3 millions. The gain on the copper coins issued within the year may be stated at about \$4000, so that the net burden of the Mint on the national treasury may be stated at about \$28,000.

In my suggestions on a former occasion respecting the standard pound, I have only proposed it as the Mint standard,

but if adopted in this view, I cannot but hope that the basis will have been laid of a system of weights and measures in general for which we are as well prepared as we need desire. There are no difficulties in relation either to weights or measures, which time will diminish; nor information to be had relative to the facts in the case which we are not possessed of. Mr. Adams' report is full of facts and instructions, derived obviously from a most studious research. And as to the means of recovering and perpetuating standards, which however, may be a subsequent object of attention, the pendulum of Capt. Kater and his highly cutified methods of experiment and comparison, gives all the facilities which can be expected for ages to come. With relation to this subject, I beg leave to mention the great advantage it would be with a view to the new comparison of standard weights to have a beam of the most perfect structure, which the long experience of the Artists of France & England can supply. They would serve as patterns for our best artists to which they could resort with much benefit to themselves; and to the improvement of new mechanisms in our country. The execution of a perfect scale beam is the highest achievement of mechanical skill.

When Mr. Fisher went to England in company with Mr. Gallatin, he was requested to obtain for the Mint two scale beams; one for heavier, and one for small weights. Finding that they could not be procured instantly, he omitted the purchase, but availed himself of the occasion to acquire much useful information relative thereto. It would secure the most certain and successful accomplishment of this highly important object if Mr. Fisher should happily return to Europe, of which he speaks, as soon as his funds will bear the charge of another visit. Is there any prospect that a public messenger will be required to go to Europe with dispatches? If so, will you please to mention, with my respects to the Secretary of State, the name of Mr. Fisher. You are as well informed as I am of the respectable rank he sustains among us; and how perfectly his accomplishment of such a charge in a satisfactory manner may be relied on.

The weight we have so happily obtained through the attention of Mr. Gallatin, will derive additional value from the possession of the most perfect means of diffusing exact copies of it. The object is worthy of the highest regards, and I feel assured that Mr. Clay would take great interest in its accomplishment.

So much of this letter as you may think proper is for the committee. I add up it however without a special view to that application of it, apprehending that it may seem too late to have any bearing on their decision on the points mentioned.

If on any other points you may wish me to communicate with you, please say so. I fear however, you will find this correspondence inconveniently to encroach on your time.

With great esteem

Yours truly

Saml. Moore

No 83

Mint of the United States
Philad^a Jan 7 28 1828

Hon John Sargeant

Dear Sir,

The copy of the bill relative to the Mint is at hand for which I thank you. I delayed to see whether the Mail of yesterday would bring me any thing further; and now drop you a few lines, being about to leave the city for Bucks County for two days. On my return I will promptly attend to your further requests after receiving my late communications.

If there be any danger in amending the bill when it comes up, it would perhaps be well to let it pass as it is; this I submit to your judgment. The provision relative to the allowance, if introduced would be in place as the 4th section. It is not of immediate moment, but the present does not appear creditable to us when contrasted with the new restrictions of other Mints.

In the 7th Section, it would be preferable to say "that it shall be lawful for the Director of the Mint to cause to be received and a paid 9c." as the Director is not properly a receiving Officer. This however is not essential.

In the 8th Section to say assistants and workmen perhaps would be better. In urgent cases the requisite assistants would be temporarily employed; their continuance to be dependent on the pleasure of Congress to make the appropriation. As the Committee please, about this however.

My suggestion respecting the distribution to be made of the copper coins, is omitted, but is not very material. The intention of Congress is accomplished by the existing laws, though the law contemplates apparently a different one.

Yours truly

Saml. Moore

No. 84755 To John Donnell & Sons. Feb. 1st and Feb. 5th 1828
Relates to Deposits of Silver Bullion
in File

No 85

Hon. John Cargant.

Mint of the United States
Philad^a. Feb. 7, 18th 1828

My Dear Sir,

It will probably be so near the 4th of March when the present Mint law expires, before the Bill can be reached, that it may be desirable to omit what is not of special value. The provision regarding the penalty is not of immediate moment, please omit moving the contemplated amendment embracing it, if it will be at all liable to invite discussion unfavorable to the Bill. It would be creditable to the Mint, but is not essential; at least with the present Officers. In my communication of the 24th ult. I gave a modification to my first suggestion on that head; please make the provision conformable to that modification, if it should be introduced, and let it come in as a 4th section.

If the Bill as reported should be adopted, you will have secured very important results. Other things can be discussed hereafter. In a few lines on the 28th ult. I mentioned two small alterations, which as that letter may not be at hand I here repeat. In the 8th section 4th line say "Apprentices and Workmen", and in the 7th section 2nd and 3rd line say "for the Director to cause to be received and assayed." The first is of more value than the last; but is not of such importance as to justify risking any thing for it.

Your speech on the retrenchment resolutions have done much for the Mint, and the Breckinridge. I will, I trust, secure to you, on topics, where there can be deliberate judgment, great influence with the House. If the Mint should not now be continued here, in the terms proposed, I can look to such an issue with no hope hereafter.

I am aware of your heavy and perplexing cares, and would have spared you some of my late tedious letters, but for your request that I would write very fully. On the same consideration I have abstained from any communication for some time past.

Yours Very truly
Sam^l. Moore

Mint of the United States
Philad^a. March 13th 1828

No 87

Hon. John Cargant.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 5th which I had the pleasure to receive a few days since, confirms the impression before entertained as to your proceedings relative to the Mint Bill. I am well satisfied that it is judicious to avoid calling it up by a proceeding which would disoblige the friends of other measures thereby postponed. In the meantime the ordinary operations of the Mint are proceeding conformably to the obligations resting on the Institution under existing laws.

Yours with much esteem

Sam^l. Moore.

No 88

To Hon. E. Bateman. April 19th 1828

A request to forward documents and Report on assay. In File

Mint of the United States
Philad^a. May 2nd 1828

Hon. E. Lyon. Wash^g.

Sir,

Yours of the 24th ult. was duly received, and the character of the mineral and metallic specimens, forwarded therewith, has been ascertained.

The samples of ore are both Salina, and well known; that ore of Lead which is found in such abundance in many parts of the United States bordering on the Mississippi. One of the specimens has the appearance of less purity than the other; but when detached with equal care from the adhering extraneous substance it is the same material. This ore ordinarily produces from 55 to 75 per cent. of good Lead.

The metallic specimens are found to be Tin. Once before, a few years since, I received a metallic specimen from Kentucky which on examination also proved to be Tin. It would be satisfactory to have a portion of the ore in its natural state from which this metal is obtained. Mr. Colcord, then Master and Refiner of the Mint, who has devoted much attention to these subjects, would take pleasure in analysing such an ore; the existence of Tin in that region in any considerable abundance being deemed a singular fact. It would also be a valuable addition to the

interesting productions of our country. I shall attend very cheer-
fully to your wishes in the further investigation of this subject.

Very respectfully

Yours &c

Saml. Moore

No 90

Thos. J. D. Barnard

Sir,

Mint of the United States
Philad^a. May 17th 1828

I learn by a few lines received from Mr. Con-
greant yesterday in reply to an enquiry respecting the Mint
Bill, that communications to him relative to the provisions
embraced by it had been placed in your hands, for the purpose
of being committed to the Chairman of the Committee having
the subject in charge. Will you have the goodness to inform
me whether any further communication is desirable on the
subject. I do not feel it proper to obtrude on the attention
of the Committee at this time, with any remarks or suggestions
but will promptly attend to the wishes of the Chairman of
the Committee in this respect.

Yours with great respect

Saml. Moore.

No 90

Mr. Haples.

Sir,

You mentioned, when I had last the pleasure to
see you here, that a scale beam of superior accuracy was among
the apparatus procured by you in London for the United States
and is now in the care of one of the departments at Washington.
Please give me such information respecting it, as you may
have recently obtained, in passing through that place, and such
a description of it that no mistake may happen as to the par-
ticular instrument intended, when I send an application to
the property department, which I purpose to do, for its transfer to the
Mint.

The Bill respecting this establishment, which will
render the possession of very accurate beams indispensable has

passed both houses of Congress, and has, I presume, before this received
the President's sanction.

With great Respect & Esteem

Yours &c

Saml. Moore

No 91

To Richard Yates Esq. Cash^r New York State Bk. Albany May 28th 1828
Relates to a supply of Cents See File

No 92

To John Donnell & Sons Bal. June 11th 1828
Relates to proceeds of Silver deposits See File

No 93

To M. Hunt Jr. Esq. Bank of New York June 25th 1828
Relates to a supply of Cents See File

No 94

To Henry Matthews, Providence, July 15th 1828
Relates to a Silver Deposit See File

No 95

To C. A. Cook Esq. Cash^r Bk of Geneva, July 21st 1828
Relates to a supply of Cents See File

No 95

Col. Isaac Roberts
Topog^r. Engineer. Wash^g.

Sir,

Mint of the United States
Philad^a. July 27th 1828

Yours of the 8th in reply to mine of the 5th and
relative to a scale beam &c in your charge was duly received. I thank
you for the information it communicates, and for the kind offer of
your further attention to my requests.

The insufficiency of the beam in question, in the instance
of its employment to which you refer, and especially the opinion of the
President as to its inferiority to Beartons, has lessened its value in
my view very much, and made me hesitate whether my request
in regard to it should be pursued further. On full considerations how-
ever, of the great difficulty of obtaining a faultless balance, after con-
sulting with Mr. Stancliff an artist new of this city, on this subject, I
recur to my former wish, that the transfer of this balance to the Mint
may obtain the President's approbation. That the beam is only 12
inches in length does not appear to me, an objection. The difficulty to
sustain without disturbance a load of nearly two pounds is not at-

tainable in a long beam without too much increasing its weight. The beams employed by Capt. Kater for comparing copies of the Standard Troy pound are ten inches in length. The Dearborn beam, you mention, I presume was not intended to sustain a weight of more than a few ounces, for which purpose, as in the Apay balance long delicate arms are sufficiently inflexible and therefore preferred. It is very pleasing however to learn that this artist has constructed delicate beams of which the President thinks so favourably. You will oblige me by informing whether he still pursues the construction of them, and procure for me, if you can his address.

Mr. Hanchiff, the artist above named, was a long time employed by Troughton, and assisted in the construction of the instrument procured by Mr. Hassler. He expresses a strong persuasion that the Balance in question could with some easy correction be rendered satisfactory for the purpose in view; and the expectation that can be readily done is an additional motive for indulging still the wish to have such benefit of this instrument as it may afford. You will oblige me by embracing some fit occasion to solicit a decision as to the propriety of making such a disposition of it. If on the whole, this should not be considered proper, I will endeavour to procure a beam of competent accuracy from some other source.

Yours Respectfully
Saml. Moore

No 97

Col. Isaac Robideau
Depot Engineer

Sir

The President yesterday authorized me to apply to Mr. Brent for the two beams constructed by Dearborn, which were used in preparing his report on weights & measures. I have accordingly done so by letter of this date. My wish therefore to obtain the beam mentioned by Mr. Hopper you will please to consider as waived for the present.

Very Respectfully
Yours Obedt Servt
Saml. Moore

No 98

to A. G. Bollermann August 8th 1828
Relates to duplicate certificate of Deposit

in File

No 99

Dr. J. W. Webster

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 15th is at hand. No change has been made in relation to the Gold or Silver Coins of the United States. The statements relative thereto in your manual of Chemistry remain correct.

The President, when passing through this city lately informed me that an artist of Boston of the name of Pollack, had constructed scale beams of great delicacy. Will you please to favour me with his full address; or with that of any other artist known to you, of high reputation in this department of mechanics.

A copy of the Standard Troy pound of Great Britain which I had the satisfaction to procure last year, through the agency of Mr. Ballatow, authenticated in a manner which leaves nothing further to be desired in that regard, was specifically adopted by a Law of last Session, as the standard pound of the Mint; and a series of weights directed to be prepared conformably thereto. A beam is now constructing for the purpose of weighing small weights, in this city; and I expect soon to receive one or two of Dearborns from Washington, of which the President speaks with approbation. It may be found advisable however to try beams from some other of our superior artists.

Very Respectfully

Yours &c.

Saml. Moore.

No 100, 101
102, 103

to E. P. Hastings Esq & John Ward & Co. Aug. 3rd & Nov. 11th & 10th 1828
Relates to a supply of cents for Bk of Michigan. See File

No 104

Joseph House Esq
Register of the Treasury

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 11th inst. received yesterday relative to an importation of copper made into Salem during the 3rd quarter of this year, and reported as being for the use of the Mint, I have to state that the importation in question cannot be made by my order, nor by any authority from this institution. All the importations of copper, ordered for the use of the Mint during a series of years have been made directly from Liverpool into the Port of Philadelphia.

Yours Obedt Servt

Saml. Moore

Mint of the United States
Philad^a Augth 22nd 1828

Mint of the United States
Philad^a Novth 15th 1828

Mr Allan Pollack, Boston
Sir

Mint of the United States
Philad^a Nov^r 28th 1828

Yours of the 2nd. Sept. respecting scale beams was duly received. I feel obliged by the attention of Dr. Webster in mentioning to you the purport of my letter to him on the subject and to you for your satisfactory communication.

When your letter was received I entertained the expectation of soon being in possession of two beams from Washington which had been used by Mr Adams in preparing his report on weights and measures; and wished to see them, before writing in reply. They were received after a lapse of some weeks from that time; and on being opened were found to be of your construction and corresponding very nearly with those described in your letter. This rendered it superfluous to apply for them on behalf of the Mint. In the hope however of finding a purchaser, I left your letter with the Cashier of the U. States Bank, who at first appeared inclined to add them to the beams already in possession of the Bank; one of which I am informed is from your hands. It was not until two days since, that I have learned, that the Bank does not consider any additional scale beams of this structure necessary for its purpose.

The price of the beams appears very reasonable. I will mention the subject to some other of our Banks and shall with pleasure inform you of any favourable result.
Yours Very Respectfully
Sam^l Moore

J. Simbach

Mint of the United States
Philad^a Dec^r 6th 1828

Sir
I received two days since your letter of the 25th ult. containing a small specimen of Gold which has been carefully assayed conformably to your request. The precise weight of the piece was 12.85 grains. The fine Gold contained in it is found to be 10 to the intrinsic value of which is 42.75 cents. This is equivalent to 88 1/2 cents per pennyweight. Our Gold coins are worth 88 1/2 cents per pennyweight; and generally the Gold from S. Carolina is fully equal to that value, or even finer than

our standard. If the specimen now examined was taken from a piece which had never been melted with the addition of any alloy, the Gold of this mine would seem to be less pure than any we have tried. Some specimens have proved worth only 85 1/2 cents per pennyweight; but none that I recollect less than about that. Probably the average of the mine may be superior to this specimen. The colour of your Gold was however, obviously paler than that of the best specimens. If you send any more specimens for trial, let them come to us without having been melted; cleansed carefully from earthy or stony matter, but not altered from their natural form.

The Assay piece containing all the fine Gold of your specimen is returned. No charge is made on such transactions.
Yours Very Respectfully
Sam^l Moore

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|--------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| No 107 | Hon. Mr. Tanford | January 5 th 1829 | See File |
| No 108 | Frederick G. Wilson | February 5 th 1829 | |
| No 109 | Lee & Minworth | N. York Feb 7 13 th 1829 | |
| No 110 | Hon. S. D. Ingham | March 25 th 1829 | |

Mint of the United States
Philad^a March 31st 1829
Hon. S. D. Ingham
Dear Sir

The abstract question of the proportional value of Gold and Silver, at this particular moment, is not, it is obvious the ultimate aim of that part of the Senate's resolution, on which you purpose to invite communications. The spirit of the inquiry, whatever may be its form, I presume is, to determine what is that proportion of Gold to Silver at which a given quantity of the one would be found in a series of years under ordinary circumstances and ordinary vicissitudes, most equably equivalent to a given quantity of the other.

This question, the moment it is touched expands in a very different manner, and the difficulty is really great to select out of a multitude of excursive views, those most pertinent to the inquiry. I have devoted some reflections to the subject, and am submit for your free modification or rejection such topics as appear pertinent to the general inquiry wished, and likely to elicit facts for its calculation.

1 What is the ordinary annual amount of Gold and Silver, severally derived from those sources which supply America and Europe with the precious metals.

2 Has the proportion in which these metals are produced been found liable to material fluctuation on comparing remote with recent periods, or recent years with each other.

3 In our commercial intercourse with those nations ^{COUNTRIES} which yield in return the precious metals at what proportional value are fine Gold and Silver valued and invoiced?

4 What is the actual proportional value at which fine Gold and fine Silver are estimated in the coinage and currency of those nations severally with which the United States have their chief commercial relations?

5 Has this proportion been uniform from an early period? or if occasionally corrected, on what principle does the readjustment appear to have proceeded?

6 Is the proportional value of Gold and Silver adopted by those nations, severally, found to retain both in general circulation as acceptable equivalents for each other?

7 Has Gold generally borne a premium in the United States above its nominal value according to the denomination and value of our coins. At what periods have this premium been most conspicuous? State the actual premium at those periods and the rate of foreign exchange during the same periods.

8 At what rate of exchange on London do English Gold coins begin to command a premium on its real value estimated according to our Gold coins?

9 At what rate of exchange on London does Gold of the United States begin to bear a premium?

10 In what proportions are Gold and Silver employed in the arts and at what proportional rates are articles of Gold and Silver of corresponding weight and workmanship usually vendible?

11 When foreign exchange is at par, does Gold command a premium on its nominal value for the purposes of the arts or otherwise?

I must express the hope, that as soon as you have submitted the several points of enquiry by you intended circular, you will dismiss the enquiry from your mind for the next six months when the various questions can be answered. The summing up will not occupy much time. I fear you are doing too much.

If neither the above series of questions, nor those you have before selected and arranged when collected together satisfy you, I shall with pleasure try to answer the whole list if you will favour me with your
Yours with much esteem
Wm. Moore

Mint of the United States
Philad^a April 3^d 1829

Hon. J. D. Ingham

Dear Sir

I was obliged to visit Bucks County on the 1st inst. and on returning that evening found your favour of the 29th and 30th. You find the questions of the true proportional value of Gold and Silver perplexing in the same way that I do, from the number of aspects of it which intrude themselves more rapidly than they can be examined or even noted down. This may be taken as an indication that the proposition admits no true solution in definite terms. In what proportions nature yields these metals to an equal assiduity of human effort may be approached within reasonable degree. It will be found, however, to bear no near affinity with the proportion assumed for them in the currency of nations; so that if a considerable proportion of the Communities of the world should determine that one half of every debt should be paid in Gold, and the other in Silver, the nominal value of Gold must be greatly advanced, or the relation of debtor and creditor ruinously disturbed. But I avoid details. By a pregnant query in your favour of 29th, I perceive with satisfaction that you place little value on any benefits to be derived from making Gold perform a more conspicuous part in our currency by an adjustment of its relation to Silver. If it were desirable to retain Gold, its nominal value must be advanced, changing the Gold or Silver coins. The former I think preferable on grounds that seem to be conclusive. The object in view in the list of questions proposed is to develop that proportion which exists in the ordinary state of things effect this subject to the furthest contingent coils.

The resolution appears to imply that the policy of making such a change is unquestionable, and presents for enquiry on this head, only the preferable mode of doing it. In conversation with Mr. Sanford, I thought he had not fully made up his mind on that point; though evidently inclining in favour of the change, and to entertain an adverse suggestion in a very impractical

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Spirit. He has left with me a series of questions which shall have early attention; none of them touching the precise point to which you called my attention.

The authors to whom I can refer you are few. Lusk I have not read. Harris on Coins is not a late but I think a very judicious writer. I read his work about two years since, somewhat cursorily; and about the same time Lord Liverpool on the coins of England, whose work you know is highly celebrated. The policy of his system has not escaped criticism; and I doubt whether with the lights of their experience they would adopt it. There is a very carefully written article under the head of Money in the Supplement to the Encyclopedia Britannica, in which probably are references to good authorities on the collateral points, but my recollection is not clear as to that. I shall examine them and search for other works and will mention any one that I find very interesting, and will thank you to do so.

If the arrival of Mr. [] may not be expected very soon, I would respectfully ask that the President would be pleased to confirm the selection of the site for the Mint which I had the honour to submit. It is but for a few days more to the 10th of the month at the farthest, that I can be sure of obtaining this lot; it is earnestly sought for at the same price by a private purchaser; and no one position has been offered for acceptance, which as I verily believe the public sentiment would consider equally appropriate.

Yours &c
Jas^l. Moore.

No 113 To Eugene A. Vail. Washington April 4th 1829 }
114 Hon. N. Sanford. Albany, April 4th 1829 } See File

No 115 Mint of the United States
Philad^a. March 8th 1829

Hon. Jas^l. S. Ingham.

Dear Sir,

My views in considering the coin question were somewhat modified by the expression "true proportional value" and in your first note to me on the subject, which appeared to go deeper than the determination of the actual proportion. On contemplating the various bearings of this enquiry, three

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general propositions struck me as prominent.

First. To determine the proportion in which Gold and Silver are produced from the sources which supply them. The enquiries No 1 and 2 in my letter of the 31st connects it with the following:

Second. To determine the proportion of Gold to Silver, which by facts derived from other nations appears to be under existing circumstances, best adapted to render both equally acceptable as the representations of equal value. The Specifications, No 4, 5 and 6 relate to this enquiry which you simplify in terms, very much, by referring for its solution to the comparison of the Mint and Market prices of those metals, through a series of years.

Third. To determine the ratio which the experience of the United States indicates as expressing the proportion in which Gold and Silver are actually valued. The remainder of the Specifications are intended to develop this fact under various illustrations.

The first general proposition may be disregarded if it be intended simply to answer the first branch of the Senate's resolution which seems to go only to the ascertainment of the actual proportional value of Gold to Silver which now obtains. But the second member of it demands to show what change of our Gold coins will be requisite to conform Gold to Silver in true relative value. This brings up the full force of the expression adopted in your note. It is an emphatic qualification, and strongly implies that the proportion sought out, will have such virtue when our coins shall be conforma to it. We shall secure to ourselves the possession of Gold in circulation equally with Silver. There are considerations however which tend to defeat this expectation and make the ascertained actual proportion turn out to be not a true proportion with in this intentment of the resolution.

When England and France, for example, being desirous of retaining Gold in their currency, have established a proportion between it and Silver which effects their object, while other nations, like the United States, are contented with Silver, or a decline entering into competition with them for Gold. If however we resolve to participate in the supposed benefits of a currency consisting equally of Gold and Silver, the operation of that principle will soon be felt. The baseful value of Gold and Silver, like all other things must conform to this Law. The result of course must be, that we shall acquire and retain very little Gold at the present time, between it and Silver, which enabled England and France to possess it before our interference, and if we bid high for it the

price will proportionally advance with them unless the new demand can be readily met by an increased supply. It is in this view of the subject that an allusion to the proportion in which Gold and Silver are ordinarily derived from the various sources which furnish them becomes appropriate; and may be good ground for a saving suggestion that the supposed two proportions, when our Coinage shall be conformed to it may not hinder the anticipated effects.

On examining the resolutions of the Senate it appears to assume very much the aspect of a Mint inquiry addressed through the department. The second member appears especially to be so and draws the first incidentally with it, since to devise such a change in our Gold coins as shall exactly conform them to Silver according to a certain proportion requires that proportion to be first settled.

You will however readily perceive whether or not this view of it is the proper one. It has for me, but one attractive feature, that by such a construction your severe duties may not have the addition of this enquiry. The first member of this resolution presents a subject on which intelligent Bankers, Merchants and Exchange brokers can furnish useful information in reply to an appropriate series of questions. To them, among other sources, I should myself have recourse for facts, in any investigations of it which I may be called to make. Mr Gallatin is an advocate of the policy of making Gold stay with us by advancing its proportional value, as I learned from some correspondence with him two years since in which our different views on that point were simply stated. He probably has a good store of facts relative to the effect of the proportional value adopted by the principal nations of Europe. It does not appear however that this question is brought directly, if at all, into discussion by the resolution. That our present system of value is right, seems to be taken for granted.

Very Respectfully

Yours &c

Sam^l Moore

Mint of the United States
Philad^a. April 15th 1829

No 118

Hon. J. D. Ingham.

Dear Sir

I concur with you in the wish to bring the coin enquiry within restricted limits and consider the position proper that the actual price of Gold measured Silver in the United States is all we need regard, if there be any such price possessing permanency. I have several times pursued this train, but there are difficulties in it also. I shall however measure the price for a series of years, and take the average, regarding nothing but the naked fact, that such a price have thus existed and may this average be offered as a measure, how much are established proportions in defect.

The actual price of Gold expressed in Silver does indeed seem to be the measure of this defect in our ratio, but on examining it carefully it appears more strictly to express another fact belonging to a different theory of the case. The premium on Gold with us indicates truly the condition of our trade with England. It occurs only when that is such that Bills are far advanced above par. But why specially with England? Because when we become indebted to her, we must pay in Gold. It is the only general legal tender. We obtain it by shipping produce, by buying a Bill which transfers the proceeds of a shipment to us, or we ship Gold directly. Should England make Silver equally a legal tender, whatever might be our debt, our ratio of Gold to Silver would appear to be the true one. There would be no premium on Gold except the trivial difference between the expense of transporting Gold and Silver. I have not carefully examined, but I think no other nation to which we are disposed to fall in debt thus degrades Silver.

But you will justly reply, it is of no moment what the cause of this premium on Gold is, provided its permanency has been ascertained. It has not however been permanent. Gold rarely if ever bore any premium during the first twenty years after our coinage was established. During the latter years of that period at least the Banks gave out Gold freely, and desired often to do it in preference to Silver. During six or eight years after the commencement of the coin the times were out of joint, and no very instructive quotations of the price of Gold will probably be found in those years. During the last ten years it has frequently, and I believe generally borne a premium, and for the last five or six it has uniformly done so of about 3 to 7 per cent, on our Gold coins, making

the average five nearly. For another branch of our foreign trade, that with China, the case is reversed. Gold is undervalued there as much as Silver is in England. It is a legal tender indeed; but by the customs of the trade, virtually prohibited. Spanish Dollars are always preferred to ours, and bear a higher premium. But the coinage of our Dollars was intermitted to prevent our coins in that form from being exported to Canton and India. Silver has often borne a premium on its intrinsic value, and gold given in exchange for it. Such facts would indicate that Gold was rated above its value. What average can this view of facts at home afford?

And yet these domestic facts, it appears to me, are by far, the best data; and claim the first notice. But on account of the want of consistency in the facts, the general and more remote principles and elements of the enquiry, will require to be regarded as guides in estimating the effect of any change of our ratio. We have much the same view of the primary elements. 1st The proportional production of Gold and Silver. 2nd The effect of various ratios among foreign nations, and modified by their own circumstances severally. 3rd The effect of our own ratio, adapted to our circumstances. The first would demand special attention if nations were now considering, de novo, of instituting a due relation between Gold and Silver with a regard to the number of them that would prefer one or the other. The second would especially concern any new people about to enter the community of nations and establish the principles of its coinage; and this accordingly was aimed at by Mr. Hamilton in his reports; but the first could not properly be overstated as here was a new demand created on the Mint. The third concerns more directly the present case when we prepare to make the proportion assumed for Gold and Silver more perfectly adapted to our own commercial and domestic wants. The two preceding with however claims regard, though subordinate; and the latter will I presume be obviously resumed. Any individual nation attempting such a would collate its own facts fully and deliberately. It may be that they shall present a series of effects so constant that nothing can be the instruction thus offered for the object. But if the facts are disultory or incongruous the practice of other nations, and the results derived from it, will be of value in estimating the tendency of a given change, and the general consideration of the proportion of Gold and Silver thrown into the world under a due stimulus of proportional value, claims regard if it were only for the purpose of showing that all the assumed

proportions are arbitrary, having no near relation to the proportions of supply. This single fact must render it plain that all nations could not possess Gold circulating equally with Silver, at any thing like the ratio now generally prevailing. That a few nations possess it, because only a few specially prefer either Gold alone, or Gold and Silver conjointly; and that this artificial state of things render a change in our ratio, with a view to retain Gold, liable to much uncertainty in its issue and success.

Yours &c
Saml. Moore

P. S. I have not yet satisfied myself whether the English Monetary System is to be considered exclusively the cause why generally a premium has prevailed in favour of Gold, generally since that time and rarely before. If Silver were a general legal tender before that, what ever might have been the state of our commercial relations, Gold would not have borne a premium. I believe however, that before that period, Bills on London were rarely above par, thus were frequently below.

No 117

Mint of the United States
Phila^a April 27th 1829

Hon. N. Tanford
Sir

The preparation of the communication herewith forwarded has been indispensably protracted, within which I had hoped to be able to forward it. I must ask you to excuse this as well as its rude drift. I shall not forget the enquiries. My aim is to offer respecting them a conjecture, proceeding on more enquiry and better data.

In relation to any of the topics replied to, your wishes will meet cheerful attention, if in any respect the answers do not bear on the main purpose of the enquiry, or is not satisfactory.

Very Respectfully
Yours &c
Saml. Moore

Questions

1. Of the paper coinage, what amount has consisted of cents, and what amount of half cents?

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2. How, and by whom, is it decided, whether copper shall be coined into cents or half cents?
3. Why are so few half cents in circulation?
4. What number or amount of each of the Gold coins, Eagles, half Eagles and quarter Eagles has been coined?
5. What number or amount of each of the Silver coins, that is to say, of Dollars and also of each of the parts of a Dollar, has been coined?
6. When Silver or Gold is brought to the Mint to be coined, how and by whom is it determined, into what particular coins, the bullion shall be converted?
7. What number, or proportion of the coins which have issued from the Mint, is now in the United States? Please to distinguish in your estimate, not only between the coins of different metals, but also, between the different coins of the same metal.
8. What is the total amount of foreign coins, of all sorts now in the United States?
9. What amount of Spanish milled Dollars, and parts of such Dollars is now in the United States? Please to distinguish between the amount of Spanish milled Dollars and the parts of such Dollars now supposed to be in this country?
10. Has the Coinage of Spanish milled Dollars ceased either totally or partially? When is any coinage of those dollars or parts of them now continued? When did the fabrication of those coins cease?
11. Are not the Spanish milled Dollars, and especially the parts of such Dollars, now in circulation in this country, much worn, and reduced from their true weight?
12. Are any immediate exchanges of coins previously fabricated, for Gold and Silver brought to the Mint, made, under the provisions of existing laws? If so, to what extent, are such exchanges made? If not, what reason prevents such exchanges? If it should be deemed expedient to facilitate advances of coins in exchange for bullion, what new provisions of law would be requisite for that purpose?
13. When Gold or Silver is brought to the Mint for coinage, what time lapses, in the general course of the Mint before the same metal is ready to be redelivered in coins?
14. What is the amount of paper money now in circulation in the United States?

15. Of the total amount of all coins now in this country, what part is in the Banks, and what proportion in circulation among the people?
16. Of what coins does the money held by the Banks, consist?
17. Have the Gold and Silver brought to the Mint for coinage been sent for that purpose, by private persons, or by Banks? If partly by both, in what proportions? What Banks have given this employment to the Mint?
18. When the Banks make payments, what species of coins do they prefer to pay; and what to retain? If there is any usage or tendency, on the part of the Banks, to pay in coins of one kind, rather than another what is its nature and extent; and from what cause does it proceed?
19. Are our own coins, or any of them more liable to be exported, than foreign coins or bullion? When a merchant, about to export money to a foreign country, has it equally in his power, to send either our own coins, or those foreign coins which are common in this country, which of them does he select for exportation? And what reason determines his preference?
20. When a merchant, lending money abroad, exports our own coins, which of those coins does he prefer for that purpose? What is the motive of his preference? Is there any thing in our coinage which produces or promotes the exportation of some of our coins, more than of others?
21. Is any change in the laws establishing the Mint and regulating the coinage, expedient? Please to state such alterations, as you may think beneficial or desirable; and also, the reasons upon which your opinion is founded.
- Some of the preceding inquiries can be answered only by estimates and opinions; and in respect to them, nothing more is expected.
- January 1829.

Additional Questions

22. What are the values of platinum and Gold in relation to each other? And what is the proportional value of platinum to Silver?
23. What is the true relation of value between copper and Silver? Is a cent worth more or less than one hundredth part of a dollar; and how much more or less?
24. Have cents or half cents of good copper and full weight, been fabricated by private persons, or otherwise than by the Mint?

25. Have cents or half cents been counterfeited in any manner whatever?
26. Are there sound and sufficient reasons for using alloy in any species of coins whatever?
27. Is there any solid reason for employing both silver and copper as alloy for the Gold coins? Or would either silver or copper be preferable to both for that purpose?
28. Is there any metal preferable to copper as an alloy for Gold and silver coins; or for either of them?
29. Is the proportion now established between Gold and the alloy of Gold, the most convenient and eligible proportion; or would any other proportion be preferable?
30. Is the proportion now established between pure silver and alloy, for the silver coins, the most convenient and eligible proportion; or what other proportion would be preferable?
31. What portion in weight of silver, and what of copper, constitute the alloy of the Gold coins, as those coins are actually composed?
32. It being understood that in the alloy of Gold coins, a very small portion of silver is used, the residue being copper; what are the reasons for this practice? And what advantages or disadvantages result from different proportions of silver and copper as alloy in Gold coins?
33. What are the respective values of the several metals which now compose the Gold coins? In the Eagle, for example; what is the value of the pure Gold; what the value of the pure silver; and what the value of the pure copper which enters into its composition?
34. What is the value of the pure silver, and what the value of the pure copper which compose the silver coins? For example, of a Dollar what part of its value consists of the copper constituting the alloy?
35. What is the value of zinc compared with the value of copper?

March 1829
Mint of the United States
Philadelphia April 27th 1829

Wm. A. Tanford

Sir,
I have now the satisfaction of replying to a part of your inquiries addressed to me on various subjects connected with the Mint. The numerical order of the inquiries being observed the points to which the several answers have relation will be ap-

parent without repeating them.

1. The amount of copper coins, executed at the Mint to the 31st of December 1828 was \$539,512.98 of which \$508,820.42 consisted of cents; and \$30,692.55% of half cents.

2. The discretionary power to determine whether cents or half cents shall be coined is considered as residuary in the Director of the Mint; and should be guided by the prevailing demand for either; subject of course to such control as the President may at any time interpose in relation to it.

3. Half cents appear to be an unpopular coin. Applicants for cents will accept them only in small proportions, and generally refuse them altogether. This reluctance occasioned the suspension of the coinage of half cents in the year 1811, and it was not resumed until 1825 when in consequence of their being in a few instances, inquired for, the coinage of which mention was made in the general report of January 1st 1826. A full supply has been at all times since on hand. The distribution of them continues, however, very limited. They are not asked for at the Mint for the institutions of this city, though cents are daily called for; nor are they generally used by the Banks.

4. The whole coinage of Gold to the 31st of December last was as follows, viz

Eagles	132,592 pieces, making	\$1,325,920.00
½ Eagles	1,394,359 " "	6,971,795.00
¾ Eagles	39,239 " "	98,097.50
	<u>1,566,180</u>	<u>\$8,395,812.50</u>

5. The whole coinage of Silver to the 31st of December 1828 has been as follows, viz

Dollars	1,439,517 pieces, making	1,439,517.00
½ Dollars	41,504,347 " "	20,802,173.50
¾ Dollars	1,855,529 " "	463,907.25
Dimes	5,525,250 " "	552,525.00
½ Dimes	205,543 " "	13,277.15
	<u>50,091,296</u>	<u>23,271,490.00</u>

6. The wish of Depositors generally is to have their bullion coined with the least practicable delay, which is most effectually accomplished, in the largest coins. An attention to this accommodation has been at all times deemed important since the government sends me Gold or Silver to the Mint. It was in this view, specially enjoined in a letter of the 13th of June 1805 from Mr. Jefferson to my predecessor for his guidance. The coinage of Dollars, was however, suspended 1805 by direction of the President under date of May 1st of that year, founded on a suggestion from

the former U. States Bank, that Dollars were more liable to be exported than Half Dollars. This was referred to in the annual report of July 14 1827 with an expression of an opinion in favour of the policy. Under the influence of these considerations, the determination what coins shall be executed from time to time, devolves on the Director of the Mint, and is regulated with reference to the pressure of the supply of bullion, and the state of the machinery at any given time; the denominations less than Half Dollars being reserved for periods of a less copious supply. I have the pleasure to say that the coinage of Half Dimes, which has been interrupted since 1805 is about to be renewed with some improvement of it. A new press for this coin is nearly completed.

7, 8, 9, 9. These enquiries are passed over at the present time, with the purpose of attempting, with better information, a conjecture of the objects of them.

10. The coinage of Dollars it is presumed continues to a limited extent in Spain; but of this fact, I have no direct information. The latest issues of the Ferdinand Dollar, seen at the Mint, are, it is believed of the year 1824.

11. By an attentive examination made of Spanish silver coins in 1826 of various dates, it appeared that they loose by wear about one per cent in 50 years. The emission of the Carlos Dollars began in 1772 and on an average the Dollars of that period were found were found worth about 99 1/2 cents. When Spanish Dollars of recent emissions are worth about 100 1/2 cents. Dollars of intervening years give corresponding results. The fractions of the Spanish Dollar, like all other small coins, loose in a higher proportion. The average value of the coin of the year 1772 and onward for a few years, were found to be as follows; Quarters, 24 cents; eighths 12 cents; sixteenths 6 1/2 cents. Their value when recently emitted may be stated from the result of the examination alluded to, as follows, Quarters 25 cents; eighths 12 1/2 cents; sixteenths 6 1/2 cents. The latest emissions examined were of 1820 and 1821, which gave for quarters 24.5 cents, eighths 12 1/2, sixteenths 6.2 cents. The tables accompanying my report, made in December 1825 on Mr. Woodbury's resolutions, give these facts more in detail.

12. No immediate exchanges of coins for bullion are made at the Mint. The provisions of the Law authorizes this under certain circumstances, has rarely been resorted to. The object has with equal benefit to Depositors been obtained in a more convenient mode. The former U. State Bank adopted a plan of

accepting their certificates at the discount of 1/2 per cent. And the present U. States Bank affords a similar accommodation, at the same discount; and disregarding the interval to elapse before the Mint can redeem its certificates in coins; and for small deposits the discount is not unfrequently waived. Depositors can thus at all times realise the value of their deposits at the discount contemplated in the Law, not in aid in coins; but in funds convertible into coins. The existing provisions of the Law may be considered sufficient on this head and may be resorted to if the Bank should depart from its present practice. If it should be deemed proper to make an exchange of coins for bullion without any allowance of discount for delay of coinage, specific provision would be requisite, which I forbear now to designate not having considered the enquiry as having this bearing.

13. When the supply of bullion is nearly and sufficiently abundant to keep all the in regular train, the delay of coinage in regard to silver will be from 30 to 40 days. In 1827, a year of unusual pressure deposits were occasionally in our vaults four months before they could be executed. The inconsiderable amount of Gold bullion received, and the inconvenience of operating on small masses and frequently interrupting thereby the silver coinage have introduced a general rule of coining Gold ordinarily at the close of each quarter only. If Gold unexpectedly accumulates, the interval is shortened; but it is never extended.

14, 15, 9 15 are deferred to another period for a more careful answer.

17. Of the amount of Silver deposits three fourths comes from the Banks; and about two thirds of the whole quantity from the U. States Bank alone. Individuals or mercantile firms send the residue. Gold is brought chiefly by this class, but occasionally by Banks.

18. The Banks uniformly prefer paying out our American silver coins and the fractions of the Spanish Dollar. The principal silver coins withheld by the Banks are the Spanish Dollars and those of the Spanish American states of established character, particularly the Mexican. The ground of this procedure, I understand to be the wish to diffuse our own coins, and the probability that the foreign Dollars mentioned may become the subject of a premium.

19. Our Silver coins are less liable to be exported than the Dollars above mentioned. For the Canton trade Dollars are preferred, from long established usage to half Dollars. But there is a cause why, even for export to Europe our silver coins are less

in request than those Dollars, thus are slightly inferior in intrinsic value, two of our half Dollars are of nearly half a cent less value than a Spanish or American Dollar of the same date; a merchant will therefore prefer the latter at a small premium before our Silver coins for export to a market where both are considered as bullion. In exporting Gold coins, those pertaining to the countries to which they are to be exported are preferred, being a legal tender there; while ours would be considered as bullion. Except in this case our Gold coins are, I understand, in equal request with other Gold coins, and bear an equal premium on their intrinsic value when Gold bullion of well authenticated value for exportation to Europe; they would be deemed bullion there; whereas here they would be rated at their nominal value, which is above their value as bullion after having been worn for a short period in use.

20. The exporter of our Silver coins, which he takes by tale at their nominal value will have a good reason for preferring generally the larger denominations. They are less diminished by wear than smaller: even the less trouble of counting the higher denomination will contribute to their preference; and for the Canton trade, habits not easily remitted are decidedly in favour of the larger coins. The exporter of our Gold coins will find the several denominations equally fit for his purpose as they are usually sold before use has diminished their weight. There is nothing in the principles of our coinage that renders one denomination intrinsically preferable to another. When emitted from the Mint, their true values are in the proportions indicated by their several denominations.

In replying to the enquiries 18, 19, 20. Silver coins have been viewed in comparison with Silver; and Gold with Gold; which I have supposed was their intended bearing. It may be added however that none of the Banks have for some years past been in the habit of paying out Gold in discharge of notes or checks. Previous to the late war, this was done generally, when requested. Gold, it seems, had rarely borne a premium before that period. At the close of the operations of the former U. States Banks, they had more than a million of Gold in their vaults, and had been in the practice of paying it out when requested of them. Very little Gold is to be found in possession of the Banks now; and it is paid out at par only as a personal favour for some special purpose. The premium on Gold appears to be intimately associated with the rate of exchange on London. It prevails

when Bills are at a certain rate above par, and at such periods, Gold is exported in preference to Silver; and commands a premium for that purpose; since being a legal tender, it is a more available remittance than Silver as a substitute for Bills.

21. The laws respecting the Mint and regulating our coinage having been passed at various periods and distributed through many volumes. To concentrate them in a single act, would alone be a valuable improvement of our legislation on this subject. In arranging the details of such an act, an inviting opportunity would be offered for the modification of some existing provisions; and the introduction of a few others not heretofore enacted, keeping in view the amended capacity and facilities anticipated in the new Mint establishment. The details of such an act would be worthy of much care, that it might form the settled ordinance of the Mint. Among the provisions that require to be amended or introduced the following may be enumerated; and others will no doubt occur, when any bill for the purpose is actually drawn, and its various provisions stand arranged under one view.

The extreme limit of allowance for casual errors in the purity of our coins usually called remedy, requires correction. It is now unnecessarily liberal. No injury to the public has indeed arisen from it: the officers intend always to make the fineness and weight of the coins conformable to law; and the result of the annual assay has proved their fidelity and attention in this respect. But our allowance has an incongruous appearance at this day, and its tendency is wrong. A specific limitation for error in weight is also a desideratum; the allowance for fineness and weight appears to be blended our present law; if they are not thus blended there is no allowance for the latter, which would be an instance of rigour without example in such cases. The limitations I would propose are, in fineness for Gold 1 in 288. For Silver, 1 in 224. In weight for Gold 1 in 500. For Silver 1 in 250. These limitations are as rigorous as those of England and France. In deliveries to depositors, the officer concerned should be answerable for exact weight in the aggregate within the limit of 1 in 10,000. The penalty annexed to the provision of the present Law respecting casual deviations from the standard should also be modified. It is too severe.

The Director of the Mint should be authorised, with the approbation of the President to appoint assistant officers in the various departments of the Mint. This power was considered as existing; and was occasionally exercised under every Presidency, until the last, when Mr Adams expressed a doubt

respecting its strict propriety under the present law. He was probably right. Such a power is, however, of no small moment. The liability to which we are exposed to a suspension of our operations by the sickness of an Officer would alone justify the measure. The extended operations of the Mint, and their tendency to expand still further, together with the expediency of supplying our circulation effectively with an abundance of our smaller coins which the facilities of our new establishment will render practicable, also strongly recommend such a provision.

The weight of our copper coins ought to be designated in terms in the law. Originally the weight of the cent was fixed at eleven pennyweights. Its final adjustment being submitted to President Washington, according to the results of experience. It was finally settled at seven pennyweights for the cent, as by his proclamation of January 25th 1795.

The determination what coins shall be executed ought to be expressly confided to some fit authority. The Director of the Mint seems the proper repository of this trust, subject to such instructions as the President may at any time issue on the subject.

Gold and Silver coins by the existing provisions cease to be a legal tender at their nominal value, almost as soon as they have begun to circulate, since some loss of weight must necessarily ensue very speedily. It seems reasonable that a coin which it is lawful to issue from the Mint should be a lawful tender; and that while coins continued within the limits of deviation from their full weight, allowable in new coins, they should continue to be a legal tender.

To what amount copper coins shall be a legal tender, it would seem highly expedient to have expressly enacted, even if the limit were very low; say one dollar, from its relation to which, the cent derives its name. The amount would be sufficient for all essential purposes of our currency.

The question of the expediency of any change in the proportional value of Gold and Silver coins is waived, not being supposed to be numbered in the queries stated. The amendments indicated are such as are supposed expedient if the proportions remain as at present; they will not be less so if that proportion were changed. Some other amendments of the system than those mentioned, will no doubt occur, when the items of a consistent code for the Mint are extended in detail. One may be mentioned now, a provision respecting the separation of Gold from Silver when contained in it in minute portions. This presents an interesting

field. Bullions of this character having been very rarely seen here until lately, and now appearing likely to be very abundant. It is a subject of careful attention and experiment with us at this time.

22. Platina is hitherto in this country one of the most valuable metals in value that holds a place among articles of much attention. Nothing claiming to be an average price has been established here. It has at times been as low as 5 to 7 dollars per pound in its crude state. At this moment a small quantity might be sold at about 24 dollars in the crude state. In its purified malleable state, small parcels, say a few ounces have been sold lately at 10 dollars an ounce. In Paris, where there is probably a much more regular demand and supply, Platina boilers for chemical purposes, I perceive from a memoir in which the fact is mentioned are sold at 70 dollars a pound. This of course is well refined ductile Platina. I do not find it named among the metals quoted in the London price currents.

23. The price of purified ductile copper, suitable for coinage, may be estimated with us at about 25 cents, in sheets. In prepared planchets or disks, under which form copper has for many years been imported for the Mint, the price delivered here, free of duty may be stated on an average of 12 years at 31 cents per pound, avoirdupois. The refiners of copper in the U. States have not thought it desirable to contract for purchasing copper in this form at the price of our last importations which were about 29 cents; and it may therefore be taken for granted that this is the lowest actual cost or value of a pound of copper purchased for coinage. A pound avoirdupois of copper coins contains 41 1/2 cents, so that the value of the copper in a cent, disregarding the expense of coining is a small fraction less than the fourth of a cent.

24. I have had no reason to suppose, and it does not appear that cents or half cents have been fabricated except at the Mint. The difficulty of throwing them into circulation in such quantity as would remunerate the party for the expense of the requisite materials, machinery and operations, would, it is believed be such as effectually to discourage it.

25. We have no metal nor combination of metals sufficiently ductile for coinage, and having a plausible resemblance to copper which would be less expensive than it. The fabrication of cents or half cents from such spurious metals, therefore while it would involve greater hazard would not promise greater inducement than forming them of copper. It is not probable that such imitations have been executed to any considerable extent. I have heard of no such coins having been in circulation.

26 The use of alloy in coinage is founded on considerations of no small moment. Pure Gold or pure Silver are more soft and flexible than is desirable for coins; they yield too easily to any force tending to distort their form; and the raised devices and legends on them would be liable, not merely to waste by attrition, but to be defaced by pressure. The proportion of alloy admitted into our Standard, without too much impairing the ductility of the coin-pounds, gives them so much hardness as very suitably to protect them from injury. Nature moreover presents no Gold or Silver entirely pure; and to render them so by art, requires nice processes involving both expense and loss of time. There are no coins extant I believe which will be found pure under a rigorous assay.

27 It is very convenient and economical to admit a portion both of Silver and Copper in the alloy of our Gold coins. Native Gold generally contains both; and the least minute portion of Silver especially is not readily detached from Gold. The existing provision is judicious on this point. It allows the Silver found in Gold to be retained provided it do not exceed half the prescribed alloy; and Silver may be readily separated from Gold within that limit. The quantity of alloy employed in our Gold coinage is not greater than is generally found in nature; or than is useful for the protection of the coins from loss or injury. If this alloy were directed to be wholly of Silver, we must incur the expense of discharging all the copper found native in the Gold; and of making the requisite addition of Silver when this is in deficit; and the coin would be rendered paler than is agreeable to the eye. If the whole alloy were directed to be of Copper, we must incur the expense of separating the least minute portion of Silver found native in Gold, and so give a colour too high to be agreeable. By allowing so much Silver to remain in the Gold as could only be detached from it with loss, and completing the alloy by adding copper, when the Gold does not contain so much as may be required to form the residue of the alloy, we are enabled to coin Gold in the State in which nature often presents it; and with the least possible expense and delay.

The alloy most suitable for Gold coins appears to be one consisting of Silver and Copper in proportions nearly equal as best combining the advantages of an adequate degree of ductility, and security against loss and injury, not surpassed by any other proportions of those metals; and a complexion in the colour little inferior in brightness to that of fine Gold. Slight deviations from these proportions will not sensibly affect the result.

28. No metal can be advantageously substituted for Copper in our alloy of Gold or Silver. In the proportion in which it enters into our coins, any other metal, that would not be more expensive, would impair either their complexion or their ductility; and generally both.

29. The proportion of alloy prescribed for Gold, viz. 1 to 11 fine, has the recommendation of being that of England and Portugal, the coins of which are familiar to us. It is moreover, not greater than the average quantity of Silver and Copper found in Gold. The average fineness of our Gold deposits since the first of January has been about 3 per cent. below our Standard. Taking the last two years together it has been about 5 per cent. below. A small part of this excess of alloy frequently consists of other metals than Silver and Copper, which requires to be detached by means which will discharge a portion of the Copper also. In general, the quantity of Silver and Copper contained by Gold as sent to the Mint requires no addition. — There is no proportion of alloy for Gold more convenient than ours, unless it be that of France which consists of 1 part of alloy to 10 of Standard. This has an affinity with our decimal system; and if any change were made, has claims to preference for that reason.

30. The proportion of alloy in our Silver coins, viz. 179 to 1485 presents a fraction by no means convenient for calculation. The proportion of 1 in 10 which is that of France is simple and applicable; and is somewhat attractive on this account; and as being allied to our decimal system. She has, however, rendered all the calculations connected with coinage familiar under our present present proportions; and tables have been carefully calculated to facilitate them. The objection therefore which originally might have been urged on that account are no longer felt at the Mint. Our proportion of alloy for Silver is greater than that of England, France or Spain. The execution of a perfect coin would be facilitated by a higher standard. The proportion assumed by France approximates to a mean between the other two; and if a change were deemed in other respects not inexpedient, our Silver coinage would be an eligible proportion for the United States.

31. In 1000 grains of 270 grains, 247½ grains must be fine Gold, and 252½ grains alloy, consisting of Silver and Copper, in which the Silver is not to predominate. Native Gold generally contains a portion of Silver. Gold derived from those sources from which the Mint is supplied may be considered as always containing a minute portion, at least equal to one grain in 247½ grains of Gold; for this small proportion of Silver is given up by Gold very reluctantly. This is sufficient to fulfil the requisition of the Law. Provided,

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The alloy most suitable for Gold coins appears to be one consisting of Silver and Copper in proportions nearly equal as best combining the advantages of an adequate degree of ductility, and security against loss and injury, not surpassed by any other proportions of those metals; and a complexion in the colour little inferior in brightness to that of fine Gold. Slight deviations from these proportions will not sensibly affect the result.

28. No metal can be advantageously substituted for Copper in our alloy of Gold or Silver. In the proportion in which it enters into our coins, any other metal, that would not be more expensive, would impair either their complexion or their ductility; and generally both.

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31. In an Eagle of 270 grains, 247½ grains must be fine Gold, and 22½ grains alloy, consisting of Silver and Copper, in which the Silver is not to predominate. Native Gold generally contains a portion of Silver. Gold derived from those sources from which the Mint is supplied may be considered as always containing a minimum, at least equal to one grain in 247½ grains of Gold; for this small proportion of Silver is given up by Gold very reluctantly. This is sufficient to fulfil the requisition of the Law. Provided,

therefore the quantity of Silver is not found to exceed the proportion of 11 3/4 grains to 247 1/2 grains of Gold, no process is resorted to, for the ascertainment of its given amount. Copper alone being added, when necessary, to make with the Silver and Copper found in the Gold the requisite proportion of 22 1/2 grains to 247 1/2. The actual proportion of Silver to Copper in the alloy of our Gold coins, may be estimated to have been on an average about 10 grains of Silver to 12 1/2 of Copper.

32. That a portion of Silver should be allowed in the alloy for Gold is strongly recommended by the consideration that a small portion of it exists native in the Gold; that at least it does not impair its fitness for coinage, but rather improves it; and that the least minute proportion of Silver is not to be separated from Gold but at an expense which the Silver will not repay. The extreme quantity of Silver admissible in the alloy of our Eagle is 11 3/4 grains, worth three cents if separated. This would not be an equivalent for its separation, and the substitution of another alloy. A proportion of Silver, sensibly greater, would be so much Silver lost. To be allowed to employ less Silver is expedient when the native proportion is less; as thereby the expense of adding Silver is obviated; and the addition of Copper to complete the alloy accomplishes the purpose equally well, while the excess of Copper is not very visible. To employ both Silver & Copper therefore as an alloy for Gold, and in proportions variable in either, certain limits appears to be judicious measures.

33. Assuming the average proportion of Silver & Copper in the alloy of Gold to be 10 to 12 1/2, the proportion of values of the metals composing an Eagle are as follows

247 1/2 grains fine Gold is worth by our system	\$10.00
10 grains fine Silver	02 1/2
12 1/2 grains fine Copper	00 1/2
270 grains Standard Gold	\$10.02 1/2

The Law contemplates only the fine metal in our coins as constituting their value. If the alloy were wholly worthless the value of the Eagle would be ten Dollars. The above method therefore, of composing the Eagle, has an aspect on account of the alloy being estimated. This does not however assume in ordinary coinage 247 1/2 grains of Gold will be found in nature, associated with the Silver and generally with a part, if not the whole of the Copper required for our alloy which being allowed to remain, the expense of separating them is avoided; only so much Copper being added as the alloy may be in defect. In this manner an Eagle of 270 grains of Standard Gold could be formed with less expense than one of 247 1/2 grains of fine

Gold alone. The cost of making it fine being greater than the value of the whole alloy required to make it standard. This is an illustration of the expediency of alloys in coinage.

34. A Dollar is composed as follows, viz:

371 1/4 grains fine Silver, worth by our system	\$1.00
114 3/4 grains fine Copper	00 1/2
486 grains Standard	1.00 1/2

In this instance also the valuation of the two metals makes the Dollar appear to cost more than its nominal value. The Law however estimates only the fine Silver in our Silver coins; the alloy being considered without value; and generally in actual coinage it is really so, since the fine Silver in a Dollar will generally be associated in nature with at least a portion of the Copper required; and this being allowed to remain saves the expense of refining, which would exceed the value of all the Copper required in our Standard Silver. Thus also a Silver coin of 486 grains of Standard Silver which contains 371 1/4 grains of fine Silver may be formed with less expense than one containing 371 1/4 grains of fine Silver alone.

35. The value of Zinc has varied from 7 to 3 cents per pound. It is now at the latter price which is singularly low. This is about one eighth of the price of Copper. If the inquiry has in view a comparison of the fitness of Zinc and Copper as an alloy for our coins, it may be satisfactory to add that it is inapplicable for this purpose; a small proportion of it being found to render those metals too fragile for coinage.

Very Respectfully,
Yours Obedt Servt
Saml Moore

No 118	Dr Benoni Staats Esq Smyrna Ohio	May 17 th 1829	In File
" 119	" John Olmsted	Hartford Conn	
" 120	" Com S Hull	" 26 th 1829	
" 121	" Dr Kham, John & Moon	" 28 th 1829	
		Jan 17 th 1829	

No 122
Hon U S Ingham
Dear Sir
Mint of the United States
Philad^a Jan 26th 1829
I forward herewith a copy of the Sanforas queries, and the replies to them which you expected a week to see. My engagements since returning from Washington have prevented

me from preparing the copy sooner, which please excuse.
They touch only incidentally the points to which our recent
correspondence was directed, and will be found less interesting than you
have anticipated I apprehend.

Yours with much esteem
Saml. Moore.

No 123 To A. Thompson Cash. Bk of Burlington, June 24th 1829
124 " Geo. Mackie & Co. July 10th 1829
125 " Hon. A. Sanford July 30th 1829
126 " Monroe Commons Bk. Aug. 7th 1829

No 127

Mint of the United States
Philad^a August 8th 1829

Thos. J. D. Ingham
Dear Sir,

If our half Dismes have not yet reached
Washington through the Banks, I will send you if you please 5 or 10
dollars worth, which you can replace by a Bank note. Would it be
acceptable, or would it be liable to be misunderstood, if I should
at the same time send a like specimen of them to the President,
or to any other members of the Cabinet? They are praised but
are not perfect; though, like the Dismes of this year, superior to
any coins heretofore issued; the higher edge given by milled
with the blank margin round the head, are valuable improvements.
New original dies are necessary in order to improve them as I
wish, and shall ultimately, I hope accomplish.

Yours ever truly
Saml. Moore.

No 128 To A. L. Nichols, Portsmouth N. H. Aug²¹ 1829. In File

Inquiries

No 129

1. When should diminished coins cease to circulate as
legal money? This enquiry has no connexion with the question
of remedy of weight, or an allowance for deficient weight of coins
when they leave the Mint. Our coins are now a legal tender according
to actual weight, and so far as this rule authorizes the legal cur-
rency of coins much diminished in weight it is conceived to be
inconvenient.

2. If diminished coins should cease to circulate when they
have lost a certain part of their weight, what is that portion of weight?

3. When a coin is so worn that its inscription and distinctive
marks are yet plainly visible, but must be effaced by slight further dim-
inutions, how much of its full weight has it lost?

4. If the currency of diminished coins should be limited
to that degree of reduction at which they cannot circulate much longer
without losing the marks of the Mint, then as larger coins lose less,
and smaller coins more of their weight, by abstraction of their relief,
what is the average of this reduction of weight? In other words, if one
rule is to be made for all our coins, and that rule is to be, that they
shall cease to be a legal tender when they are reduced to the lowest
ratio, at which the impression of the Mint is distinctly visible, what
portion of their full weight will express this deficiency?

5. How long will coins circulate, before they will lose
by the friction of ordinary use, that portion of their full weight which
will be expressed by the answer to the last inquiry?

6. The Spanish dollar is now a legal tender, when
it is of the actual weight of seventeen pennyweights and seven grains,
and the parts of that dollar, when they have like proportional weights.
What portion of these Spanish coins now in this country have these
requisite weights? Is not a great portion of these coins, not only below
these requisite weights, but also, very far below?

7. How long have these Spanish coins now in this
country, been in use? Are they not almost all of coinage prior to
1815? Is not a very large part, and what proportion of them of
coinage anterior to 1792?

June 30th 1829

Answers

No 129 Hon. A. Sanford
Many

Dear Sir

Mint of the United States
Philad^a August 25th 1829

A variety of experiments, in which coins
of different denominations have been exposed to attrition, for
the purpose of determining some of the points to which your inquiries
of the 30th of June relate, have occupied a much of my attention since
my last. I have now the satisfaction of replying to your inquiries
in their order.

1. When the Mint impressions on our coins are not in
any degree effaced, they are an attestation both of their fineness and
weight, and therefore of their value by value and so long as there is

impressions remain clearly discernable, though in various degrees impaired, they still attest the standard fineness of the coin, and therefore its value under a given weight. When the Mint impressions are no longer discernable, the genuine character of the coin is rendered liable to some doubt, and it seems reasonable that it should therefore cease to be legal money if not earlier.

2. The diminution in weight, at which the legal tender of coins should terminate, is presumed to be that, which from careful examinations, is found, ordinarily, associated with such an abrasion of the device and inscriptions thereon, that some of them must cease to be clearly discernable, on a small farther diminution by use. This loss of weight, will as far as practicable be designated under the next topic of inquiry.

3. The diminution of our coins, in weight when exposed as above, by the effects of ordinary circulation, may from the results of experiments made with those coins, aided by analogous trials of the coins of Spain, be estimated as follows

	Full weight	Reduced Wt.	Reduced Value	Left Wt.	Left pr. ct.
Dollar	17 dwt. 8 gr.	15 dwt. 8 gr.	\$0.9157%	1 dwt. 0 gr.	5 7/10%
1/2 Dollar	8 " 15 "	8 " 2 "	.4578%	" 14 "	5 7/10%
1/4 Dollar	4 " 8 "	4 " 0 "	.2310%	" 8 "	7 1/10%
Dime	1 " 17 1/2 "	1 " 13 1/2 "	.91%	" 3 1/2 "	9 1/10%
1/2 Dime	" 20 1/2 "	" 15 1/2 "	.457%	" 2 1/2 "	10 3/10%

The coins here specified may be thus reduced in weight from the effects of attrition, applied, as in ordinary circulation to all parts of the surface, without wholly obliterating either date, device or inscription. These will all of course be greatly impaired.

A near approximation to accuracy being all that is supposed to have been attained in these estimates, the per cent. age of loss may be, for convenience, expressed in simple numbers as follows, viz. For the dollar 5 per cent.

" 1/2 dollar	7 " "
" 1/4 dollar	8 " "
" Dime	9 " "
" 1/2 dime	10 " "

The result of all my observations is, that a small farther reduction of weight by attrition in ordinary use, the measure of it, not easily defined, would render the Mint impression so obscure, that the character of the coin might be rendered questionable. The above may, therefore be regarded as the extremes of reduction in these coins, seemingly comparable with the character of a sound currency, their fitness for the purposes of money.

4. The fact alluded to in your fourth inquiry, that coins of different denominations lose in different proportions by that degree of abrasion which will efface the Mint impressions, is illustrated in the above results.

A difficulty presents itself in determining any average limit of diminution applicable to all coins, at which they should cease to be a legal tender. None can be assumed, which would not admit some coins, from which parts of the Mint impression might be effaced, or obliterated, though retaining them entire. The mean, it appears, would be very nearly that proportional reduction which pertains to the quarter dollar; and the effect of this limitation is obvious on inspection. The dollar would be a legal tender when the Mint impression must be effaced and the dime and half dime retaining those impressions, might be rejected.

The difficulty would be in some measure obviated, by designating two grades of limitation. - One applicable to the large coins, and the other to the smaller. For example, five per cent. for coins of a denomination not less than half a dollar, and ten per cent. for all other silver coins, limiting the amount in this latter case to a sum not exceeding ten dollars in any one payment.

These proportions are facile in calculation, and familiar in our system of money. The first may seem unnecessarily rigorous. It applies however only to those coins which constitute the efficient coins of our currency, where rigour is salutary. The second would be too lax; but the restricted amount would obviate all danger to any important interest. A greater latitude may be allowable in that portion of our currency called change, which is peculiarly liable to loss by attrition from use. The seeming complexity of such a regulation, I confess appears objectionable. The suggestion is offered however for consideration. If the limitation of five per cent. were made general, no inconsequence it is probable would result. In regard to our small coins in ordinary transactions they would be received unquestioned as long as the Mint impressions should remain clearly discernable. And as to our larger coins it will appear that when the country is well supplied a reduction in weight of 5 per cent is not produced but after a long period.

5. The larger denominations of coin forming the mass of a copious metallic currency are so much at risk, that the progress of waste by attrition is slow. In a mixed currency, consisting of Bank paper, formed on an adequate metallic basis, this waste will be farther retarded; the larger coins being still more at risk. Of the Dollar and half dollar, which, especially the latter, form the efficient basis of our circulation far, comparatively of any given

date are in motion at any one time. The loss of weight by use in these denominations may be estimated at one per cent. on an average in each period of 50 years. Within the first period the loss may exceed this proportion, new coins presenting more exposed points than those which have been for some time in use; but the effect will be less in succeeding equal periods. A diminution in the weight of these coins, equal to five per cent. in a currency formed like that of the U. States, would not be effected, it is believed in two centuries, by the attrition of ordinary use, to which, on an average, those coins would be liable.

The subordinate coins, which perform the offices of change are in more constant action, and by reason of this greater surface, under the same weight, sustain a greater proportional waste. In our currency the waste on the quarter dollar may be estimated at 3 1/2 per cent; that of the dime at 5 per cent; and that of the half dime at 10 per cent in fifty years, provided the circulation shall be supplied, in due proportion, with those several denominations.

6. The Carolus dollar, which began to be issued in 1772, and ended in 1808, weigh now about 17 dwt. 8 grs, taking the average of the different dates as now found in circulation, and are worth 100 1/2 cents. The Ferdinand dollar, which follows the Carolus, began to be issued in 1809; they now average about 17 dwt. 7 grs, and are worth nearly 100 1/2 cents.

7. The old pillar dollar of which the issue ceases in 1791 being of greater intrinsic value than those of subsequent emission, have been very generally withdrawn from circulation; and the oldest Spanish dollars, now of frequent occurrence are the Carolus impressions commencing in 1772. The coinage of the Spanish dollar and its parts, if not wholly suspended, continues only to a very restricted extent. None have appeared at the Mint of a later date than 1824. Certainly by far the largest proportion of them now in the U. States, are of date anterior to 1815 but it is believed that there are in circulation more of these coins, of impressions, subsequent to 1792, than prior to that date.

Nothing has been said specifically of our gold coins, nor have they been the subject of any recent experiment. They have not been allowed to grow old among us; and the loss by use to which they are liable is chiefly to be inferred from analogy with other gold coins: they may be considered like them as liable to lose about two per cent on an average in 50 years.

When the condition of a metallic currency ceases to be renovated by annual emission the effect of use is rendered more

sensible. The French crown, of which the coinage ceased in 1793 presents a conspicuous instance of this. The Spanish dollar and its parts seem destined to offer another example. While the effect of our annual emission, which are always of full weight will be equally manifest in maintaining our currency at a grade, approximate very near its nominal value, taking any mass promiscuously from the circulation.

Your queries respecting the amount of our circulating medium and its constituent parts are not forgotten. I hope in a short time to offer you some conjecture on those points.

Very Respectfully

Yours &c

Sam^l Moore

No 130 To A. G. & J. Howland New York Sept^r 11th 1829 See File

No 131 Mint of the United States
Hon. J. D. Ingham Philadelphia Sept^r 7th 1829
Sec^y of the Treasury

Your letter of the 2nd respecting the weight and assay of the latest coins of England and France, was received on the 5th Saturday. The subject of it shall receive immediate attention. I am now seeking for the several specimens requisite for the purpose.

With great respect

Yours Obed^t Serv^t

Sam^l Moore

No 132 Mint of the United States
Hon. J. D. Ingham Philad^a Sept^r 10th 1829
Dear Sir,

Yours of the 5th is at hand. I shall have the pleasure in a few days to transmit a series of quotations, relative to the premiums on Gold; and to the State of Exchange with England within the period mentioned.

I have obtained a few Sovereigns of the years 1827-28-29 and French Gold and Silver coins of several of those years; but as yet, no Gold coins of the present year. I will proceed without these last very shortly, if I fail of procuring them with the examination requested in your letter of the 2nd.

Yours with great Esteem

Sam^l Moore

No 133

134

135

136

No 137

To J. Delafield Esq. Cashier, Phoenix Bank N.Y. Sept 11th 1829
 " Sims, Williams & Woolsey
 " John S. Hart. New York.
 " John S. Hart. Do. Do

Sept 11th 1829Sept 18th 1829Sept 21st 1829Sept 30th 1829

In File

Hon. G. D. Ingham

Sir

Mint of the United States
 Philad. Octob^r 11th 1829

Yours of the 8th was received on Saturday. I have availed myself of such opportunities as I could command to ascertain what is considered here the value of that constituent in the aggregate of considerations operating to restrain the export of Gold, which may be termed reluctance to move Specie. There is no distinct conception, I think entertained here of any impediment coming properly under this name. The term is new to me, though not inappropriate to express all those feelings of care and doubt which the operation involves before the actual shipment places the article within the protection of insurance, together with the personal trouble it may demand beyond that of procuring a Bill. What would be an equivalent for all this?

To me and to all possessing no more ready facilities, nor more familiar acquaintance with the agents to be relied on abroad, a Bill would appear preferable under any ordinary hope of profit which the alternative would present. But Gold is an object of competition to a numerous class of persons in our principal cities long accustomed to all the details of its transportation and management, who accomplish every step of the process through familiar channels, and obtain the resulting profit, whatever it may be without anxiety or sense of hazard.

To such dealers in bullion and exchange at the Messrs. Brown of this City, New York and Baltimore, who have also a house in Liverpool, and these are Mercantile Establishments in all our chief cities of similar character, I am persuaded that the consideration of 3 to 1 per cent. above actual charges would be an adequate motive to induce a shipment of Gold.

The following is a specification of the actual charges incurred in shipment of Specie made by the U. States Bank, and referred to in my last, variable in some measure with the season and amount shipped.

Insurance to London or Havre. $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 per cent.
 Freight accord^g to season and shipped $\frac{1}{2}$ " "
 Brokerage $\frac{1}{8}$ " "

Petty charges	$\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.
Commission of Consignee	1 " 1 " "
Commission of procuring and expense of forwarding from Liverpool to London	$\frac{1}{8}$ " $\frac{1}{4}$ " "
or from Havre to Paris	$2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 per cent.

The premium on Gold approximates to that on Bills so nearly that if the full charges above specified must be incurred, there would result very little gain; as an examination of the relation between them, in tables of prices current will illustrate. But it is here necessary to keep in view, what you will, I am sure, have noticed as essential to be considered in estimating their relations, that the premium on our Gold coins, and on those of the same standard intends so much per cent. above its value by Mint regulations, viz: above 88 $\frac{1}{4}$ cents per dwt. and the premium on any other Gold intends so much per cent. above its intrinsic value according to the standard and denomination of our Gold coins. Now 88 $\frac{1}{4}$ cents per dwt. will give for the Gold in the Sovereign, or pound, sterling \$4.55.5 whereas the premium on Bills is computed from the mistaken par of \$11.14 for the pound sterling. The difference between them is 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. So that, when Gold is said to be at 5 percent premium, it is really at 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ above the par assumed for Bills. If to this be added 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the expense of Shipping &c. the sum is 10 $\frac{1}{4}$; so that he who might buy a Bill at 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent premium, and gives in preferred 5 per cent on Gold above its mint value, and ships it at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent expense, if his Gold sells under par in London on account of delay of coinage, so much as is equivalent to the loss of interest on a 60 days Bill, neither gains nor loses by the operation. There is no compensation for the care attending the remittance in Gold.

I have felt no difficulty in accounting for the premium on Gold above its intrinsic value not coming more than it actually does to the premium on Bills above \$11.14. My difficulty has been to account for the fact of Gold being at 5 per cent. equal to 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ compared with the par of Bills, when exchange on London is at 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 10. This occurs not infrequently, though it is not general. It is accounted for by the fact that many of the dealers in Gold have facilities for their operations by which several of the items of expense incurred by the U. States Bank are obviated and the result will be, that they may gain 1 to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. when others would merely avoid a loss without any compensation for personal care and attention.

To put a case in form. When Bills are quoted at ten per cent premium, our gold coins will bear no premium on

their intrinsic value, for exportation at full charges. For suppose Gold were offered at a premium of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, this would be equal to $\$3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent returned from the par of Bills, leaving $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent to cover all the charges, and Shippers profit. If Bills fell to 7, Gold would be exported at a premium of 1 per cent with the same advantage as if shipped at 11 per cent, when Bills are at 10; the difference between the two premiums in both cases reckoned from the same basis is $\$3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent to cover full charges with a small profit.

On the whole, I do not perceive room for introducing any other item as necessary to constitute the difference between Gold and Bills, than a very moderate profit on the operation, after the expenses of it have been reduced to a minimum by judicious arrangements; and I apprehend it would be unsafe to estimate the aggregate of the considerations operating to restrain the export of Gold to England at more than 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$. The premium on Gold modified so as to have relation to the par of $\$1.144$ like the premium on Bills of Exchange, will be found to approach the latter within those limits.

I had intended to add a few remarks relative to the par of $\$1.80$ which appears to have regulated our Exchange on London for some years; and with which all our Exchanges and premiums on Gold are, I think easily reconcilable, but I necessarily become so prolix on those points, that I omit them. The effect of this par has, I doubt not, occurred to you, and been considered.

With great Esteem
Saml. Moore

No 138 To John Olmsted Esq
" 139 " Hon. A. Sanford
" 140 " Hon. J. D. Ingham

Oct 14th 1829
Nov 7th 1829
Nov 21st 1829

Min. of the United States
Philadelphia Nov 1829

No 141

Hon. A. Sanford

Dear Sir,

Your several inquiries respecting the amount and character of the circulating medium of the U. States, were postponed when those on other topics were replied to, with the hope of attaining to something more than conjecture respecting the objects of them. That hope has not been very satisfactorily realized. The result, however, of my examination of the subject is submitted.

The general basis on which I have attempted to estimate our whole circulation, is the condition of it in those States, wherein the Banks occasionally render a statement of their affairs conformably to legal requisitions.

In pursuing this method, allowance is to be made for those Banks from which reports do not appear. These it is proposed to estimate at one half the average of the reporting Banks: a conjectural estimate it is true; but probably not so far erroneous as to affect materially the general result. The omitted Banks, will generally, be of the Class of Country, rather than City Banks; and their inferiority even to the average of Country Banks is no unfair conjecture.

There is another constituent of the estimate to be sought for, with but a feeble light to guide us, viz. the amount of specie diffused among the people, respecting which the Bank reports afford no evidence.

From reflection and enquiry with this point in view, I am persuaded that in Pennsylvania, the amount of specie in the hands of the people, exceeds three fourths of a dollar for each individual of the population. I propose to estimate the average of specie to population at three fourths of a dollar for each individual in all those States wherein the currency is so sustained, that the notes of their Banks are at par, or very nearly so, in our principal commercial Cities. It is obvious that this average will not be equally correct for all those States, but I have no means of accommodating it to the circumstances of each.

From recent tables of the notes of the various Banks which are considered of the best authority by those conversant with the subject, it appears, that there are in the U. States about 500 Banks now in operation. These I have divided into three classes. The first, embracing those of which the notes are at par, or at a discount not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent in Philadelphia or New York. The second embracing those of which the notes are at a discount of from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent; and the third, all those of which the notes are at a discount of more than $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. The first class contains 350 Banks, the second 120; and the third 130.

With these preliminary remarks the following estimates are presented.

In the State of Pennsylvania, the population of which may be estimated at about 1,350,000, there are 35 Banks, belonging to the first class. From 29 of these, statements were received in 1828, exhibiting in specie $\$1,735,404$, and notes in circulation $\$6,155,584$. Add for six Banks, not included in the statement $\$180,000$ in specie, and $\$40,000$ in notes; and for the estimated

amount of specie diffused among the people \$1,012,500, making the amount of specie \$2,747,900; and that of the Bank notes \$5,828,554, giving an aggregate of specie and notes of \$9,576,454, which would be 7½ dollars, say 7 dollars for each individual of the population.

The Bank of the United States is not at present taken into view, but will be regarded hereafter in the general estimate.

The States of Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Vermont, are the only other States of which I have obtained Bank statements. Their aggregate proportion may be estimated at 1150,000. According to the Bank tables above referred to, they contain 147 Banks coming within the first class, from 130 of which there are reports of the dates of 1827 and 1828, exhibiting in specie \$2,050,454 and notes in circulation \$7,323,531. Add for 14 Banks not included in the statements \$173,000 in specie, and \$480,000 in notes; and for the specie diffused among the people \$1,095,000, making the amount of specie \$3,718,454; and of notes \$7,803,531 and the aggregate of specie and notes \$11,521,985 which gives 7½ dollars say 8 dollars for each individual of the population.

The results above deduced from Pennsylvania alone compared with the average for those four States, as regards the proportion of currency to population; and that of specie to Bank notes, claim attention. In the latter the amount of currency for each individual appears greater than in Pennsylvania; yet the proportion of specie approaches nearer to that of paper, than in Pennsylvania.

This condition of things may probably obtain as a general fact, in the States north and east of Pennsylvania in some of which the currency had never become so much disturbed during the late war, as in the States south and west. In these last the currency has been also more slowly restored; and it is probable, that in those of them where the proportion of specie to paper is equal to that in Pennsylvania, the proportion of currency to population may be less. In others, the proportion of currency to population may be the same; but the proportion of specie to paper will be less than in Pennsylvania; in which case the Banks will be found generally of the third class.

On the whole I see no ground of calculation on this subject so conformable to the facts which I have been able to command as the assumption that the proportion above deduced for Pennsylvania may be considered a mean measure, applicable to the white population of all the States, except Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana and Missouri.

In these five States, the Banks are generally of the third class. In all the others, they belong with a few inconsiderable exceptions, not exceeding fifteen Banks in the aggregate, to the first and second classes. For the excepted States a correction of the general results will be required which must be chiefly conjectural.

The number of our white population exclusive of the five States mentioned, may I presume be estimated at 9 millions which at 7 dollars currency for each, gives an aggregate of 63 millions of dollars, consisting according to the proportions in Pennsylvania of \$18,000,000 in specie, and \$45,000,000 in notes.

The correction to be applied for the omitted States may I presume be estimated, still exclusive of the U. S. Bank at 750,000 in specie and 5 millions in notes; making the amount of specie 18,750,000 and of paper 51,000,000.

To the above must now be added on account of the Bank of the United States and Branches \$7450,000 in specie, and \$12,814,000 in notes making the whole amount of specie in our currency \$26,150,000, and the amount of notes \$53,814,000, and the aggregate of the currency \$79,964,000, nearly.

The premises above assumed and thus pursued, result, it is acknowledged in a higher amount of specie than at the commencement of the inquiry, I had imagined to exist in the United States. But I do not find sufficient ground on full consideration for reducing it.

The specie in the U. States Bank and Branches is a given fact. Of this amount, about one half consists of Spanish and Mexican dollars, and other foreign coins. A proportion nearly as large of the specie in most of our Banks it is believed as is known to be the case with a majority of those respecting which information is possessed, consists also of foreign coins, of which therefore including fractions of Spanish dollars, there are probably more than \$8,000,000 to be found in the vaults of the Banks. That not less than \$16,000,000 of foreign coins are diffused among the people can be highly probable, giving an aggregate of \$12,000,000 of foreign coins. That \$16,000,000 of our own coins exist in the U. States is probable from the following considerations.

The amount of silver coined before January 1817 was about 8 millions of dollars. Of this amount, it may be reasonably supposed at least 3 millions remained in the United States at that period, reserved in the vaults of the Banks; or diffused among the people which added to the silver coinage since 1817 amounting to 17 millions of dollars makes the sum of 20 millions to be accounted for.

It is not probable that 6 millions in our silver coins have been exported or consumed in the arts since that time. They are not in request for our commerce beyond the Cape of Good Hope, nor so much so as Spanish and Mexican dollars, even for export to Europe. They cannot be profitably employed for this purpose unless exchange on London is as high as 10 per cent above the nominal par of \$4.44 for the pound sterling. The actual silver par between the United States and England since January 1817 has been \$4.80 which is 8 per cent above the nominal par, and the extra 2 per cent is a moderate estimate for the expense and deduction incident to a remittance of silver.

In 1822 and also in 1825-27 & 28 the state of exchange with England was at or above the rate mentioned. During those periods silver might be shipped without loss as a substitute for Bills of Exchange; and during a part of those years with profit, and large shipments in coins and bullion were in fact made to England and France. The Spanish and Mexican coins however, being preferable for this use to our own, the exportation of the latter was thus very much restrained. Perhaps 1½ millions may have been exported under these circumstances. Perhaps 2 millions of the exports of silver to India and China within the last twelve years may have consisted of our silver coins. Half a million may be estimated to have been consumed in the arts, as I understand from an intelligent source. One and an half million of dollars may be estimated to have been effectively absorbed in Canada. More than this sum it is believed has passed out of the U. States in that direction, but a portion of it will have been returned. The estimate of \$5,000,000 withdrawn from our currency since 1817 is therefore too liberal, and the inference appears sound that there are more than \$14,000,000 of our own coins now in the U. States.

The proportion of specie, first estimated to be diffused among the people, viz about \$7,500,000 appears on full consideration to be too low. That this is the fact will be more apparent on investigation of the amount of small coins in our currency.

The coinage of quarter dollars since the year 1817 has amounted to about \$300,000 - about \$100,000 in quarters had been issued before that period. They are less in request by the artists; and less liable to be exported than larger coins. Supposing however that \$100,000 the whole coinage before 1817 has been withdrawn in some way from the currency, the \$300,000 would still remain. Now it is manifest to common observation

that Spanish quarters appear in circulation far more frequently than those of our own coinage - eight or ten for one would not be an extravagant estimate. Allowing full weight to the probability that many persons may retain the quarters of our coinage, when they have the option to employ the foreign coin, still the conjecture is reasonable that we have nearly \$3,000,000 in quarters in our currency, including those of our own coinage. The amount of Dimes coined since January 1817 exceeds \$400,000, and about \$100,000 of that denomination must be supposed to remain. Dimes appear however to form an inconsiderable part of our change. The 5ths and 10ths of the Spanish dollar are fourfold more frequently seen. The Dime is perhaps withheld by some, whenever the foreign coin can be employed; still the estimate is authorized, that we have nearly \$2,000,000 in coins, less than quarter dollars in our currency. We must have therefore about \$5,000,000 in coins, less than half dollars including our own and foreign coins.

In the U. States Bank and Branches the amount in coins, less than half dollars is about \$150,000. In all the Banks, judging from the facts ascertained there are probably not more than \$1,000,000 in small coins. Therefore \$4,000,000 are to be sought for in the hands of the people. But coins less than half dollars do not appear to constitute one half, certainly in many sections of the Union, not one third of the specie in the hands of the people; the amount of which may therefore perhaps be estimated at about 9 millions.

On the whole, without materially changing the aggregate amount of specie, I would propose to modify the distribution of the first estimate: assigning to the Banks \$1,000,000 in foreign coins, and \$900,000 in coins of the U. States. And estimating \$9,000,000 to be diffused among the people including \$5,000,000 in coins of the U. States, and \$4,000,000 in foreign coins.

The gold coins may be considered as involved in the above estimates; the amount being insufficient to effect large results, is disregarded.

The aggregate of the currency thus estimated gives the proportion of 9 dollars to every individual of the white population of the U. States, which may be estimated at about 10 millions.

The estimates given by Humboldt respecting the

proportion of currency to population in certain parts of Europe, give for each individual of population of France about 12 dollars; and for each individual of England and the South of Europe taken together about 10 dollars.

The above estimates, I am sensible are liable to many exceptions. In presenting them, I have the pleasure, though late of complying with your request.

Very Respectfully

Yours &c

Sam^l. Moore

No 142

J. E. Ingham Esq
Sec^y of the Treasury

Mint of the United States
Philad^a Dec^r 5th 1829

Sir,

The quarterly accounts of the Mint have heretofore been rendered according to forms originally derived from the Treasury Department, with as I understand ample instructions for conforming them to the order of the public accounts. In the lapse of years however, during a portion of which these returns had been intermitted, the forms alluded to appear to have been lost or destroyed, so that when in the year 1824 it was determined to resume them, these forms and instructions were sought for without success. This was little regarded at that time, as they were familiar to the then Clerk of the Mint now dead: on whom the duty of making out these returns had frequently devolved. It is desirable that his successor Mr. Benquet should be enabled to render these returns precisely according to the accustomed forms; and it has occurred to me to request that you will be pleased to allow the complete returns of the second quarter of the present year, which have been settled at the Treasury, to be transmitted to me for his guidance, as placing the subject more fully in his power. They can be made available for the object in view, and transmitted again in perfect order to the department in a few days.

Very Respectfully,

Yours Obed^t Serv^t
Sam^l. Moore

Dec^r 8th 1829 } Su. Rls
" 9th 1829 }
" 15th 1829 }

No 143 To Hon^{ble} J. Sanford
144 " Joseph Smith Esq
145 " Hon^{ble} W. L. G. Smith

Mint of the United States
Philad^a Dec^r 23rd 1829

No 146 Hon^{ble} J. Sanford

Sir,

On the subject of our late conversation respecting the coins, I have thought carefully since, and now offer, as you requested a few remarks, respecting the Copper coins.

The limitation of the tender to be small an amount as ten cents may, it is feared in a degree have the effect to bring them into disrepute, which would not prove desirable; its character as a coin is worth maintaining, since its use tends to promote currency in expenditure. A Cent is declared to be of the value of the one hundredth part of a Dollar; that one hundred in the aggregate, should be of the value of a Dollar seems therefore appropriate. If any less minimum is to be taken, that which you propose of ten cents, has a claim to be preferred as belonging to the proportions of our monetary system, and is, it must be admitted, a harmony between the limitation of Copper coins to ten cents, and that of small silver coins to ten dollars.

As to the limitation of silver coins, further reflection has not opened in my estimation the objections to an extension of of this limitation to the half Dollar. That the public has long been accustomed to this coin; that the diffusion of it through our currency has resulted from a deliberate policy of the Government steadily pursued for many years; that not less than about fifteen millions in this coin will be in our currency before the coinage of the dollar could be commenced with vigour, and that for some years this amount will be at least a moiety of our whole specie circulation, since to render a continuance of its unlimited tender expedient, at least they strongly recommend a postponement of any limitation of its use, to a future time, and other circumstances of the currency.

It merits notice that the rate of diminution in weight of the Spanish half Dollar by use, which appears to equal that of the dollar is not applicable to a currency, consisting wholly of coins of this denomination, or equally of this and the Dollar. A few half Dollars in a currency consisting of Dollars chiefly, perform a disproportionate share of service, and the absolute loss of the half may thus in a given period equal that of the dollar. But it admits of a question whether the aggregate of a currency consisting altogether of half Dollars would lose sensibly more than if consisting of dollars. In the former a single half would often be sufficient for the occasion when in the latter a dollar must be moved; and while in service the dollar loses absolutely though not relatively more than the half dollar.

On reexamining the degree of diminution in weight which our coin may bear without the impression being rendered questionable, I am induced to regret if 5 per cent as the limit beyond which the coin should cease to be legal money, as you propose to assume only our limitation for all coins in this respect, in which I heartily concur, 5 per cent would be, safely within the rate at which the impression of the dollar, however doubtful, and the adoption of 5 instead of 11 attracts me, in some measure by its nearer affinity to our decimal proportions. The suggestion is offered, however, merely for consideration.

Respecting the time when the proposed regulations should commence, those which relate to the limitation of the tender of our own coins, provided the half dollar be not for the present included in the provision, would require no preparatory measure, and the 1st of July as proposed would afford ample time for diffusing the information. As to the commencement of those regulations which relate to the tender of foreign coins, I submit the following considerations:

The new Mint will, I trust be in full operation the 1st of July, 1831. One third of the edifice is now inclosed. The remainder will be so by next autumn; the finishing of the interior, the hardening of the walls for receiving delicate implements, together with some delay in arranging and adjusting the machinery to be employed, will retard efficient operations until some early period of the succeeding year. By the same time also, and not much sooner, a complete series of new dies with such improvements of the present devices as may be proper, can be executed with the requisite care.

Such changes as may be considered judicious in the alloy of our coins should also be adopted before the enlarged energies of the Establishment are to be exerted, in supplying the circulation rapidly, with a copious substitute for the foreign coins now in use. These changes will probably form a part of an amended general code of regulations for the Mint, which is not probably in contemplation at this Session of Congress.

One year of efficient action of the new Mint, after all these emendations are accomplished, might beneficially precede the exclusion of any of the foreign coins which are now a legal tender. This would bring us to the 1st of July 1832 at which period the legal tender of a portion of the foreign currency might be declared to cease, and the particular coins

designated would suggest the denomination of our own coins proper to be emitted in anticipation, and diffused by special attention through the community.

I submit for consideration, to be modified as may be thought best, a definite proposition on this subject. That the Spanish sixteenths of a dollar shall cease to be legal money, July 1st 1832. The eighths, quarters, and halves, July 1st 1833, and the dollar July 1st 1834. Thus would be excluded first the coin which is most in defect, resuming for the latest period, that which is likely to be relinquished with some inconvenience, if the measure was even prematurely proposed. The time when the regulation shall take effect, would, I presume be deemed of less moment, than the probability of its remaining undisturbed by solicitations for its repeal.

The Mint may be relied on, when employing its new capacity, improved according to the design entertained in this respect, to meet all the exigencies of the currency within the above period. Provided, an adequate supply of bullion can be secured. A coinage of ten millions of dollars, consisting of the different denominations of our coins; and in proportions convenient for a national currency, could be readily effected in one year. The extreme efficiency of the Establishment I would not now venture to assign. That just indicated will probably transcend any supply of bullion which can be expected to be presented to its action at any early period. Our regular sources of supply are foreign coins and bullion, brought into the U. States in the ordinary returns of commerce, and those foreign coins now in our currency, which bear coinage with some gain from these, it is believed, deposits could be attracted to the Mint in sufficient abundance to accomplish the substitution above proposed, if the Mint were authorized and enabled to pay promptly the value of deposits without deduction for delay of coinage. This would require a modification of that provision which now authorizes, under certain circumstances, prompt payment at a deduction of one half per cent. This provision which would not be onerous to the depositor in any sensible degree it is presumed would increase even in some degree the importation of bullion by rendering it the half of one per cent more valuable; and would attract to the Mint all foreign coins of our intrinsic, or above their nominal value, which is the fact with Spanish dollars generally, and Mexican uniformly.

One other provision is also highly expedient, to wit, that the Director shall have the power to employ assistants in the several departments of the Mint when necessary. Under the existing regulations, this power is liable to objections. In the code of Mint

regulations, which at a future period, I trust will have your attention, it is desirable that it should be explicitly conferred.
Nothing further occurs to me at this moment relative to the topics to which you more particularly called my attention when here. If any point has been omitted, please remind me of it.

With great respect
Yours &c
Sam^r Moore

No. 147 To Hon. Lewis Williams Dec^r 28th 1829. See File

No. 148

Hon. J. D. Ingham
Sec^y of the Treas^y

Mint of the United States
Philad^a Dec^r 29th 1829

Dear Sir

Your making inquiries respecting a Lithographic Press, was received yesterday. Thus far, there is not much promise of success here. I have received this morning, however, information, which may lead to a more favourable issue. I will as soon as practicable, ascertain this, and communicate the result.

With Esteem
Yours &c
Sam^r Moore

No. 149

Hon. J. D. Ingham
Dear Sir,

Mint of the United States
Philad^a Dec^r 30th 1829

I have not been able to find a Lithographic Press for sale in this city. The best informed in relation to this kind of apparatus, rely only on importation to procure it. My inquiries have not however been wholly useless, as I am able to refer you to one who will soon be in Washington, from whom the best information on the subject can be obtained. Mr. Schittas, the eminent engraver, whom you know, informs me he will visit Washington just next. He will make a point of waiting on you, and will take pleasure in communicating whatever may promote your wishes in this particular. He has ordered for himself a Press for England. The stones can now be procured here on favourable terms, as I hear from him.

It is said that these Presses are well made in New York, but I question the correctness of this. Mr. M^r. Sloan of the U. States Bank informs me that he also has ordered one from England. A Press, suitable for copying letters, complete in all respects would cost about \$200. If I can in any way aid you in procuring one by importation, you will please to inform me.

Yours truly
Sam^r Moore.

No. 150 Hon. W. D. Nichols. January 2nd 1830 See File

No. 151

Hon. M. Sanford

Mint of the United States
Philad^a Jan^y 11th 1830

Dear Sir

I had the pleasure to receive a few days since, two copies of your report on the coins, for which please accept my acknowledgements, and permit me to offer a suggestion relative to the weight of the Eagle under the proposed change of the ratio between Gold and Silver.

The weight to be adopted, it is desirable, should be such that all our Gold coins may be weighed with facility by the ordinary divisions of the Troy weight. There is, however, one weight which I beg leave to submit to your consideration as possessing peculiar advantages, - that of 250 grains standard to the Eagle, the half Eagle 125 and the Quarter Eagle 62 1/2.

This has the recommendation of giving all our Gold coins in whole grains, an inviting harmony, pertaining to no other weight within the limits of advanced liberty to be adopted. But besides this characteristic, there is another peculiar to this weight, - it makes the ratio in the coins precisely 15 to 1, so that the Gold and Silver coins become weights for each other - twenty dollars in Gold, would weigh one and a quarter in Silver, the coins being perfect and all multiples of these, would counterpoise each other.

There are two modes of attaining this result. One is presented in table A, annexed to Mr. Ingham's report, which makes the fine Gold 258 1/2 grains, the alloy according to our present standard being 25 1/2, and the whole weight 250. The ratio would thus be 15 7/8 to 1 or 15.5789, being an advance of 3 1/2 per cent in the value of Gold. Mr. Ingham's proposed ratio gives 15 1/2 per cent, and the calculation is 15.5 per cent.

Should it however be considered judicious to adopt a higher advance, the object can be effected by a ratio approaching very near to that which is recommended in your interesting report.

The ratio I have in view is $15\frac{1}{2}$ or 15.86538 to 1 which is an advance of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The proportion of alloy required to be assayed with this ratio would be $\frac{1}{10}$ of the Standard weight, which accords well with our decimal system. It is that of France, and has been adopted in the improved Mint regulations of the Netherlands; and is, in every respect, at least equally convenient, with our present Standard, for the processes of the Mint. The Eagle deduced from these data would consist of 234 grains of fine Gold, 25 grs. of alloy, and 250 grs. Standard.

My preference I acknowledge has been in favour of a single Standard of value, and that to be Silver. The wish for a change in the valuation of Gold for the purpose of retaining it among us, has however, I believe, become general. The measure deserves too a new attention, and no small assurance of success, even at an advance of $5\frac{1}{2}$ from the fact that an abundant supply of Gold from domestic sources seems no longer questionable. The amount of Gold received at the Mint within the present year is near $150,000$ dollars. This will be advertised to in my annual report to be forwarded in a few days.

Very Respectfully,
Yours &c,
Saml. Moore

- No 162 To R. Manford Jan 9th 1830
- " 163 " R. Boulton " 9th 1830
- " 164 " Mrs. J. Hart " 18th 1830
- " 165 " Hon. D. McKim " 20th 1830
- " 166 " J. Delafield " 23rd 1830
- " 167 " Hon. J. P. Ingham " 25th 1830

See Files

No 168 Hon. J. Manford
Mint of the United States
Philada Jan 28th 1830

Dear Sir,
I thank you for the copies of your report which were duly received. The discordance which appears between our estimates of the Spanish Dollar, I find it more difficult to account for, than that which occurs in relation to its parts. Respecting the latter, I am satisfied their condition varies in different parts of the United States; and that those of them found in this city, especially those in possession of the Banks, are among the most favourable specimens. This point is of no great moment, the propriety of substituting our own small coin in place of them being admitted by all.

I cannot find ground from the deposits hitherto received at the Mint for stating the average value of the Spanish dollar at less than nearly 100 cents and 3 mills. Those of them which have been largely diffused among the people, are I presume, below the average of the deposits received here for coinage, which are derived generally from the Banks. The mass of this coin will hereafter be liable to a more rapid depreciation than heretofore, in consequence of the emission of it being much restricted, if they have not now ceased.

In searching a few days since for Spanish dollars of late date among a number which had been accumulating without selection for several months, I noted the proportional number within given periods, which it may be satisfactory to be informed of, as a mass thus accumulated, may be deemed a fair representation of that coin as circulating in this city and its vicinity.

The whole number of Dollars was 1224 coins within the periods following, viz.

Before 1772	3 pieces
From 1772 to 1780	12 do.
" 1781 " 1790	29 do.
" 1791 " 1800	108 do.
" 1801 " 1810	153 do.
" 1811 " 1820	55 do.
In 1821	29 do.
" 1822	3 do.
" 1823	0 do.
" 1824	1 do.
" 1825	1 do.
	1224

The average value of these dollars was found to be 100 cents 2 mills within a very small fraction. Spanish dollars of a date anterior to 1772 are almost uniformly, as far as my observation extends, worth more than 101 cents. Their Standard is much finer than the present Spanish Standard, and their present weight rather greater than the average of these dollars coined since 1772.

It is remarkable that the coins of 1821 in this point exceeded any other date. Those of 1865 rank next to them amounting to 20 pieces.

I have noticed in some other instances, the excess in number of the Spanish dollars of 1821. It perhaps may be limited to this section of the United States, while other dates may prevail in other districts.

No 181	Hon. J. D. Ingham, Secy. Treas.	July 23 ^d 1830
" 182	J. Ambley Esq., Wrightsville Va.	" 25 th 1830
" 183	Hon. S. D. Ingham, Secy. Treas.	" 29 th 1830
" 184	R. A. Jones, Halifax N. C.	Aug st 3 ^d 1830
" 185	John J. Hart, New York	" 5 th 1830
" 186	Hussey & Machay, N. York	" 9 th 1830
" 187	John J. Hart, New York	" 11 th 1830
" 188	M. R. Boulton, Birmingham Eng.	" 19 th 1830
" 189	M. R. Boulton, do.	" 21 st 1830
" 190	Thos. Hemmings	" 23 rd 1830
" 191	Hussey & Machay, N. York	" 24 th 1830
" 192	Moses Taylor	Sept 3 rd 1830
" 193	J. Delafila Esq. New York	" 3 rd 1830
" 194	Elizer Lathrop New York	" 5 th 1830
" 195	J. A. Pehr	" 10 th 1830
" 196	John Fisher Esq. Columbia S. C.	" 13 th 1830
" 197	J. Delafila Esq. New York	" 13 th 1830
" 198	James L. Thayer, Waddington N. Y.	" 15 th 1830
" 199	Geo. Newbold, New York	" 20 th 1830
" 200	J. Delafila Esq. New York	" 24 th 1830
" 201	J. L. Moses New York	

See file for 1830

No 202

Minst of the United States
 Philad^a Sept 27th 1830
 Mr. A. M. Mearns
 Cashier U. S. States

Dear Sir,

The following particulars will it is presumed, be sufficient for the purpose contemplated in your note of the 23rd inst.

The whole coinage for the ten years, commencing with 1820, and ending with 1829, amounted to \$17,546,717.55 viz. Silver \$11,755,327.55, Gold \$2,579,617.50, Copper \$3,201,772.50.

The average annual coinage within that period was in round numbers \$1,754,671.55, and the average expense, one and one third per cent, very nearly. The smallest coinage in any one year of the period was \$915,589, viz. in 1822, the expense, about 2 1/2 per cent. The largest coinage for one year was \$3,624,342, viz. in 1827 the expense there of, one per cent, within a minute fraction.

The above may be considered as the expense of a silver coinage of the amount mentioned. The Gold and Copper coinage, in the period, added very sensibly to the expense per cent on the whole coinage. A large proportion of the expenditure of a silver

establishment is permanent; the per centage of expense therefore, diminishes with the increase of the amount coined.

When the silver coinage reaches 3 millions, the expense may be stated as about at one per cent; and one or two millions of Gold could be coined at the same time for an additional charge not exceeding the 1/10 of one per cent, on the Gold.

Three millions of Gold without silver would, under our present establishment be coined at about the half of one per cent, viz. for \$15,000. The third or fourth of this amount would not cost more than \$1000 less, and double the amount would not cost \$2000 more. In the above statement of expense the wastage on the precious metals accruing in the various processes is included.

A few specimens from every delivery of Gold and Silver coins are reserved for an annual trial assay, before commencing as designated by Law. The average weight of our Silver coins has not within the period, subject to my observation deviated at any of those trials from their standard weight so much as the tenth of one per cent; that of the Gold coins has not deviated from the standard so much as the 20th of one per cent. The weight in both, where there has been any error, has usually been found in excess. One hundred thousand dollars, as delivered from the Mint, if not precisely accurate as to the weight due to that sum, would be almost uniformly found to exceed it.

Trivial deviations in weight in single pieces of coin are unavoidable; they will rarely however exceed a grain and a half in our heaviest Silver coins, or a quarter of a grain in our Gold coins.

The extreme deviation from the standard fineness as determined by the annual assay, does not exceed the 5th of one per cent in Silver. In Gold coins it is too small to be appreciated. The Silver assay has not any where attained perfect accuracy. The result in single experiments may vary as far as the half of one per cent above or below the tenth assay results are therefore only to be relied on. The Gold assay is capable of great precision, and may be relied on to give a constancy of results.

Very Respectfully

Yours Obedt Serv^t

Saml. May Jr.

No 203	John Fleming, N. York	Oct 11 th 1830
" 204	D. Moody Esq. Staunton Va.	" 11 th 1830
" 205	Geo. Newbold Esq. Cashier U. S. States	" 5 th 1830

No 205	John S. Hart	New York	Oct 7 th 1830
" 207	John Fisher Esq. Cashier	Columbia S.C.	" 15 th 1830
" 208	Wm. Patton	Charleston S.C.	" 16 th 1830
" 209	John S. Hart	New York	" 18 th 1830
" 210	J. Andrews Esq. Cashier	M. S. Bank	" 18 th 1830

No 211

Hon. J. D. Ingham
Secy of Treasury

Mint of the United States
Phila. Dec 21st 1830

Sir,

Under date of the 14th instant, an official notice was addressed to Dr. Rush, informing him of the appointment of William Findlay Esq. as Treasurer of the Mint and that a commission had accordingly been issued that day. It seemed under this intimation proper that his functions as Treasurer should be ostensibly suspended in relation to subsequent transactions, in the daily expectation of his successor's arrival.

I remain uninformed of Mr Findlay's arrival and of his intentions; and feel some solicitude in regard to the course proper to be pursued at this juncture. The District Attorney, whom I conferred with this morning, appears also to entertain doubt on this subject.

No interest in the mean time is permitted to suffer or be impeded; but I have respectfully to request you will be pleased to instruct me whether or not Dr. Rush ought to be continued to act as Treasurer until his successor shall arrive and be qualified.

Very Respectfully
Yours Obedt Servt
Saml. Moore

No 212	M. Hewit Esq. Cashier	Utica N.Y.	Oct 25 th 1830
" 213	J. S. Hart	New York	Nov 11 th 1830
" 214	J. Delafield Esq. Cashier	New York	" 5 th 1830
" 215	Geo. T. Weaver Esq.	New Port R.I.	" 25 th 1830
" 216	Jacob Blackensdun	Gover, Ohio Canal	" 25 th 1830
" 217	D. Moody Esq. Cashier	Statenville O.	" 25 th 1830

See File for 1830

Mint of the United States
Phila. Dec 1st 1830

No 218

Phineas Hayton

Sir

Yours of the 5th ult. inclosing a small inclosed specimen was duly received. This metal has been examined by Mr. Cloud, Melted & Refiner of the mint; and is found to contain a portion of Tin, and also a portion of Silver, with some Iron. The minuteness of the specimen does not admit of the proportions being determined with the accuracy requisite to justify stating them as a guide in deciding on the expediency of further exploring the vein which produces it. If you will forward a larger piece, say about half an ounce, it will be carefully examined, and the result communicated. Let it be in the condition in which it is found in the vein.

Very Respectfully
Yours &c
Saml. Moore.

No 219	W. M. Kee & Co.	Dec 1 st 1830
" 220	Edw. Bowden, Augusta Geo.	" 4 th 1830
" 221	Dr. A. Jones Athens Geo.	" 5 th 1830
" 222	G. G. S. Howland N. York	" 11 th 1830
" 223	John S. Hart N. York	" 13 th 1830
" 224	J. P. Carson	" 17 th 1830
" 225	Hon. W. J. Nicholls	" 24 th 1830
" 226	Mr. Thompson	" 25 th 1830

See File for 1830

No 227	Hon. J. D. Ingham	Dec 27 th 1830
" 228	John S. Hart New York	" 28 th 1830
" 229	J. Delafield Esq. Cashier New York	" 31 st 1830
" 230	Mr. R. Boulton England	" 31 st 1830

See File for 1830

No 231	Hon. J. D. Ingham	Reasons for increased expense of the Mint Aug 7 1831
" 232	" J. B. Carson	Relating to expense of assay Office - 10 th 1831
" 233	J. Delafield Esq. Cashier	Phineas Bank, New York - 17 th 1831
" 234	Saml. Schmitt	With Cashier Bill for Thermometer - 26 th 1831
" 235	Hon. J. D. Ingham	Rel. respecting Mr. Sanford's Bill &c - 21 st 1831
" 236	W. P. Vaughan	Relating to Pistons - 25 th 1831
" 237	J. Delafield	Respecting payment of Expense - 28 th 1831

For the above See File for 1831

No 238 Hon S. D. Ingham
Secy of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States
Phila d^a Jan^y 29th 1831

Sir

I forward herewith ten dollars in our new quarters, an issue of which is this day commenced. One of the packages, containing five dollars, please hand to the President with my respects.

The changes from the former coins of this denomination consist partly in a reduction of the diameter of the disk, the employment of milling to form an elevated margin, and leaving a portion of this margin blank, corresponding in these particulars with the improvement made in the Half and quarter Eagles, dimes and half dimes. A similar improvement will as soon as practicable be introduced in the large coins.

In the coin now forwarded there is however one peculiarity to which I beg leave to invite attention, and hope it will be approved. The words "E Pluribus Unum" are omitted from this coin. They form no part of the legends authorized by the law establishing our coinage, nor can I find by whom they were introduced originally. I presume it was through inadvertence, from these words forming the motto on the Seal of the United States. Certainly, it was unfortunate. The multiplication of inscriptions is peculiarly unfit on coins. The inscription "United States of America" was selected by Congress to express the fact of our Federal organization, and they wisely avoided repeating the same idea in other terms.

Various dispositions of this extra inscription have been from time to time made in order to get clear of the embarrassment. The last was that which appears on all our issues for the past twenty years, viz. writing it on a scroll within the legal inscription; thus however depressing the eagle below its proper central position. Symmetry of arrangement is obviously impaired by this.

A specimen of the quarter dollar issued in 1828 is substituted for one of the new in each package in order that the effect of the changes specified may be more readily appreciated. These coins are not, however, offered as perfect. There is obvious room for further improvement. In some points this will be done in our next dies, and in other points with little delay.

Unless this change be disapproved, the exclusion of the surplus inscription will be adopted very soon in our dimes

and Half dimes in which the crowding effect of it is very manifest; and as soon as practicable the improvement will be carried through the other denominations of our coins. Some time, however, is required for this.

You will receive by this mail my reply to various inquiries made for the satisfaction of a member of a committee of the House of Representatives. On Monday I shall be able to prepare the usual report on foreign coins, which the examination and estimates necessary to satisfy the enquiries alluded to, and enquiries immediately pending have necessarily postponed.

Very Respectfully

Your Obed^t Serv^t
Saml Moore.

- No 239 John Delafield Esq - Cashier, Phenix Bank N York Feb 7th 1831
" 240 Hon S. D. Ingham, Relative to a change in 10th & 20th of coins 15th 1831
" 241 Saml Lord Esq - Cashier Piscataqua Bank, Portsmouth N.H. 21st 1831
" 242 Theod. W. Patchin Esq - Cashier, Bank of Troy N.Y. 25th 1831
" 243 St. L. Bop Esq - Cashier B. S. Union Bank Mar 2nd 1831
" 244 Hon S. D. Ingham, Respecting deposits of Watkins " 3rd 1831
" 245 J. S. Hart - N York, Respecting a supply of cents " 7th 1831
" 246 Hon S. D. Ingham, Relative to the app^t of J. Richardson 21st 1831
" 247 Saml Lord Esq, Cashier Piscataqua Bk Portsmouth N.H. 22nd 1831

No 248 Hon S. D. Ingham
Secy of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States
Phila d^a March 25th 1831

Sir

I embrace the earliest moment I could command to pay the requisite attention to the anonymous complaint made to the President under date of the 12th inst. in regard to a deposit made at the Mint, referred to the department, and communicated with your letter of the 18th. The following facts and explanations belong to the occurrence in question.

On the 3rd of March, inst. a deposit, which no doubt is that alluded to, was made at the Mint in the name of John Walker of a lump called Gold by the depositor. It was received and weighed by Mr Eckfeldt, Chief Coiner of the Mint, and entered as Gold from sundries, under an impression, from its base appearance, that it was made of refuse from a Jewellers shop, or some quarters of that character. The weight was 7 ounces 19 dwt. It was assayed as containing Gold alone, and the usual certificate of the value of the Gold issued, being the amount stated in the letter viz 549.37. The deduction for Refuse was 48 cents was as usual entered on the bill.

icate. My personal knowledge of the occurrence commences after this.
About the 5th of March a person of respectable appearance, called on me at the Mint, and requesting a private interview, named himself as W. S. Mullen, and informed me that the deposit referred to was made for his account, and that it contained 10 half Eagles, and 10 half Dollars, purposely disguised with lead. That being engaged in a business which made it convenient often to send small masses of Gold and Silver mixed, to the Mint, he had tried this experiment, to determine, whether the result of the assay could be relied on to yield the true value of the metal, independent of any information given as to the character of the mass. The issue was of course calculated to impress him unfavorably, and to authorize, as he supposed a claim to be remunerated for his loss of the five dollars in Silver, of which no account was rendered, and also of the deficit in the Gold. The charge for refining was not I think complained of.

The communication was made with apparent frankness, and my explanation listened to, as I supposed, with an entire sense of its adequateness, especially in regard to loss of the Silver.

On this point he was informed, that the result flowed wholly from his misapprehension of the duties and obligations of the Mint. That deposits of Silver of so small an amount as five dollars, are not receivable, even if presented in a separate form; and much less could be received if requiring to be searched for in a mass of Gold, and parted therefrom. That if the depositor had stated his belief that his deposit contained, besides Gold a small quantity of Silver not exceeding five dollars, he would have been advised not to leave it at the Mint, since it would not be deemed a consistent part of the engagements of the institution to separate so small an amount, a procedure could not fail to invite innumerable applications for the same accommodation.

He was further apprised that the Law contemplates 200 ounces of Silver and 20 ounces of Gold as the minimum quantity which the Mint should be required to receive if below the standard of the United States (see Sec. 5. act March 3^d 1795). That below the above limit, deposits, however not being directly forbidden, a wish to diffuse the advantages of the Mint, had induced the frequent acceptance of much smaller amounts, possibly sometimes departing so far from the limits referred to as to incur the imputation of putting the public to the expense of an assay for deposits unaccountably small; but in no instance had a deposit been received of so trivial a value as the Silver he had deposited. It was said to come from a man who had been in the Mint for some time.

He appeared to feel the propriety of this regulation. He was however, anxious to be allowed for the Silver which he presumed must be in some form in the Mint, capable of being recovered. On this point I could not then give him any direct encouragement as it was not improbable that the deposit had been disposed of by submitting it with other base Gold to the test, a broad shallow crucible, of a porous character on which large masses are exposed to a recumbent furnace to be refined. The Silver in this case becoming diffused through a large quantity of Gold, would pass undisturbed into the Gold coinage forming but a very minute addition to the Silver demanded in the alloy of Gold coins, but not transcending the proportion thereof admissible by Law in the aggregate of Gold, of which this particular mass would form a part. The United States thus deriving no benefit from the presence of this Silver, the amount thereof could not be restored to him without an equivalent loss to the public. Leaving this point uncertain for the moment I informed him that it would be an enquiry of Mr. Cloud, the Melted & Refiner, as to the actual disposition made of his deposit, and desired him to call again in a day or two for a definite answer on this subject, as well as for information in regard to the minimum quantity of Silver which the Mint would undertake to separate from mixtures of Gold & Silver. In conclusion he was advised of the expediency of stating at all times as nearly as he could the character of the bullion offered in deposit, and that if under the circumstances of the moment the desired separation could not be made, he would be so informed, and could exercise the option either to dispose of the article otherwise or retain it until it should accumulate in larger masses.

On conversing immediately afterwards with Mr. Sedgwick and Mr. Cloud, I was informed that Mr. Sedgwick enquired as to the character of the mass deposited, and received no intimation of there being any value in it but the Gold. It was tried by the assayer only in its character as Gold Bullion, without stopping to give to the assay the direction necessary to ascertain the fact of the presence of any unusual quantity of Silver. The assay gave the result of Gold only 7 carats 3/4 grains fine. From Mr. Cloud, I learned that this Gold had not been put upon the test, but had been granulated for refining by the nitric acid, along with various other masses of base Gold. This method has in a good measure superseded the use of the test or dry method of refining within the last two years. The means previously for parting Gold and Silver, and the frequent recurrence of that opportunity of refining base Gold at the same time in the same way. It would thence result that if they really exist, & the fine

dollars of silver united with the gold in question it would be separated in this process, and mixing with other separated silver, would eventually accrue to the benefit of the United States, even if to diminish to that extent the deficit arising from wastage on silver, to be ascertained at the end of the year.

Under these circumstances it was considered equitable that the party should not be allowed to suffer by his mistake, but that, on giving me satisfactory assurance that the silver claimed was actually present, a certificate for a silver deposit of that amount should be made out for him. He called at the time mentioned, I understood, and the above decision was communicated by Mr. Eckfeldt or Mr. Cloud. He did not, however, see me till the 13th or 14th of the month, when he was at the mint to make another deposit. I then on a further conversation with him agreed to accept his own avowal of the fact, without requiring the testimony of any of the persons (his workmen) who were stated to have been witnesses to the combining of the metals, and a certificate of deposit for five dollars in silver was made out payable in due course, which stands therefore to his credit.

The charge for refining is the legal rate, and will be accounted for specifically to the Treasury of the United States as in all similar cases at the end of the proper quarter.

The deficit in the gold now claims attention. The principal consideration presented to Mr. Mullin on this point was, that it is not practicable to melt gold into a mass in the manner stated, and not have some particles of it insinuate themselves into the imperceptible fissures and pores of the containing vessel. How much may be attributed to this source of loss must depend on the character of the crucible, and the care and skill employed. The process of melting coins and weighing the mass is every year performed here in presence of the assay commissioners, and the fact is familiar that the whole weight cannot be recovered without reducing the crucible to powder, and collecting the metallic particles which have penetrated its substance with the utmost nicety of manipulation. Mr. Mullin imagined that there could be nothing thus lost, but this is an error.

Certainly, however, with ordinary care, and employing a good crucible, the loss must be much less than 17 grains, which are deficient out of the 10 half eagles. Assigning therefore to this first step a fair proportion of the loss, and admitting the coins employed to have been full weight and standard, which I presume they were, the deficit indicates an error in the assay much greater than will ordinarily occur.

That the assay even of gold is liable to some error is well known in all climes; but in the present instance it will be manifest, on reflection, that the sources of error are multiplied, and that they concur in their tendency to a result unfavourable to the depositor.

In the first place, this gold was obviously, to the eye, far below standard; and it was so disguised, that no indication was given that the alloy was chiefly silver. The trial by the touch stone, which is employed by the assayers, in order to find therein, a conjecture in doubtful cases as to the quantity of lead required to be added to the assay piece in the cupel, indicated a very base metal, demanding a large proportion of lead, when in fact, the assay piece consisted chiefly of gold and silver, the latter being nearly two fold the weight of the former. The silver part of the mass it was found was 4 oz. 15 dwt. 12 gr. - that of the gold 2 oz. 15 dwt. 5 gr. leaving 5 dwt. 8 gr. for base metal, and this chiefly lead. The first effect of the disguise adopted therefore is to introduce into the cupel too much lead in proportion to the actual condition of the piece, which in the process of cupellation, under a full temperature, would tend to work down into the porous body of the cupel a portion of the silver and gold. A very minute portion, it is to be remarked, would sensibly effect the result, since about 8 1/2 grs. constituting the assay piece represent the whole mass; and of this, only about 3 grs. in the present case, could consist of gold, so that the loss of the top of the 100 of a grain of this gold would be proportional to the half the deficit complained of in the 10 half eagles.

The cupellation being accomplished, which separates all that is base metal, the next step of the gold assay is to separate the silver it contains; for gold in nature always contains silver. This process consists in exposing the assay piece intended into a thinly laminated fillet to the action of nitric acid. But the acid will not produce its effect unless the weight of the silver in the assay piece is about three fold that of the gold. A part therefore of the preparation of the assay of gold, consists in adding thereto so much silver as will make the proportion of the latter to the gold about 3 to 1, and it is of no small moment that this proportion shall be nearly exact. If the silver be deficient, the acid acts imperfectly; and if the silver exceed the due proportion, the assay piece is rendered so extremely porous, by the abstraction of the silver, that it loses its tenacity, and crumbles into a powder. It is desirable that the assay piece should retain its consistent form, so that no particle should get detached and lost in changing it from the glass vessel in which the solution of silver was effected, into a small crucible in which the gold is to be dried and annealed, in order to be correctly weighed. But here again, it is obvious that the concealment of the

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Silver operates unfavourably for the accuracy of the result. Not con-
-jecturing that it forms so unusual a portion of the mass, the assayer
adds in his preparation more silver than the actual conditions of
the compound justifies, and the assay piece, under the action of the
nitric acid, became a howder. The assayer, who operated in this in-
-stance, is no more; but his son retains a clear recollection, as he
informs me that this did occur in the case alluded to. Now it re-
-quires only a minute particle of the Gold powder to be lost, viz.
the 1/50 of a grain, to effect the result to the extent of half the de-
-ficiency of Gold, even if no loss had previously occurred.

The inquiry of course presents itself whether this liability
to error from the uncertainty of the proportion of silver in a piece of
Gold can not be avoided. The practice is in this regard as follows.
When an assay of an ordinary deposit is thus rendered somewhat
uncertain, the assayer uniformly repeats the whole process, correct-
ing his proportions throughout by the information thus obtained,
and the second assay piece passes the cupel without probable loss
of its pure metal; and under the hammer process, the Gold still
retains its consistent form. But in assaying very small deposits,
the reception of which into the Mint, may be of questionable pro-
-priety, as they incur some expense, and occupy the time of the
assayer, to the impediment occasionally of his more important
engagements, the assay is not usually repeated under similar cir-
-cumstances. It was not, I understand repeated in the instance
in question.

It thus appears that there were three causes tending
to prevent the assay in the present instance from indicating truly
the quantity of Gold thrown into the melting pot, viz. the whole of
it was not recovered from that vessel;— the disguise under which
it was presented induced a procedure which rendered probable
some loss in the cupellation;— and the same cause tended to un-
-dermine the last critical process of collecting the Gold separately,
after the silver had been detached from it by the nitric acid. All these
tendencies are against the depositor, and they result from his own
measures. Had the deposit, however, been near the ordinary am-
-ount contemplated by the law even though disguised, the errors
growing out of the two considerations last mentioned, would have
been the subject of caution; the assay would have been repeated with
the aid of the development made by the first trial. And had there
been no disguise or concealment this small deposit would have
been assayed without any misadventure.

When in assaying a deposit of Gold so far as to re-

quire refining, a small error occurs against the depositor, as it probably
has in the present case, the refined mass of which it will form a part, will
contain more Gold than is called for to pay the certificate issued. The
minute surplus will therefore pertain to the United States, diminishing
though in a degree scarcely applicable in the present case to the deficit
on account of wastage on Gold, ascertained at the end of the year. In
this view of the subject, it might seem equitable that the loss of Gold also
should be refunded. But it is to be remarked that should the loss in the
melting pot be estimated at so much as 7/10 grains only, the remainder of
the loss, viz. 3/10 grains, would not exceed that deviation in the assay which
the Law contemplates as the limit of remedy for casual error. Errors in
the ordinary operations of the assay will rarely, indeed extend to the
fourth of that limit. On viewing, however the whole subject, I have
not been able to perceive that any solid ground presented itself for
making a remuneration in this particular. The whole amount of
the deficit is 58 cents.

I am disposed to rest the explanation on the points
mentioned without admitting the supposition that the Gold coins em-
-ployed were deficient incidentally in weight or fineness. It is highly
probable that they were not. Some irregularities in these respects, and
it is true unavoidable. They occur, however both in excess & defect, and
seem to neutralize each other, leaving the average very nearly equal to our
standard. The reserved pieces of the several emissions of Gold from the
8th of February 1830 to the 14th of February last, were of full weight, as
determined by the commissioners of the annual assay on the day last
mentioned; and of a fineness slightly above standard. Of coins issued
within those limits, probably Mutton made his experiments.

I have recently had an opportunity of examining the
result of a large sale of our Gold coins to Paris. This was a test of our
coinage on an extended scale. There were 40,000 half eagles; and the
weight proved to be in excess 1 part in 15,000, estimating the Dille-
gram at Killeys proportion, which must be so nearly true as not
to effect this result materially. The fineness was reported from the assay
of Paris on average 1/100 milligram in defect. This is the 20th of one percent,
which is but 1/100 part of the legal Mint remedy. It is presumable, how-
-ever that the coins were strictly standard. For it has been rendered
highly probable, by late investigations in Paris, that their assays of
Gold give a limit of 1/100 milligram below the truth.

I do not imagine that Mutton, the person really in-
-vested in this case has been the writer of the letter. It is dated
perceive on the 12th. He must have known nearly or quite a week
earlier than that date, all that has been above stated as to the

Silver, and that it was decided to account to him for the value of it, having ascertained that it would not be lost to the United States.

Who was the writer, is of little moment, however. A profitable use may be made of the incident. This will, I am persuaded, be the feeling, excited by it here. The tone of precaution and watchfulness so eminently demanded in every department of this Institution, will it is probable be elevated by it. The Mint ought to expect such experiments. No doubt they have been made before, and perhaps occasionally with some dissatisfaction to the parties, if they have originated and been conducted under a small misconception of the design and obligations of the Mint.

The writer indulges in some idle musings, which I need not reply to. It may, however, be proper to observe, that depositors frequently attach, in their imagination, a value to their bullion which it will not bear. The apayer must in faithfulness to his trust, disappoint such expectations.

The letter is herewith returned, a copy being retained

Very Respectfully

Your Obedt. Servt
Saml. Moore.

No 249	L. Vaughn	New York	April 7 th 1831
" 250	J. D. Ingham Secy of the Treasury	New York	" 7 th 1831
" 251	Peter Harmony	New York	" 8 th 1831
" 252	L. Vaughn	New York	" 9 th 1831
" 253	Capt Peter House		" 11 th 1831
" 254	Thos J. D. Ingham Secy of the Treasury		" 13 th 1831

Mint of the United States
Philad^a April 13th 1831

No 255 Thos J. D. Ingham
Secy of the Treasury

Sir,
I forward herewith a specification of the coins issued from the Mint up to the 31st December 1830 which will meet the wishes of Mr Howard. If his purpose is only to use it as a guide in searching for specimens of each variety, the number of pieces coined in the several years is only to use it to ascertain that he had not some statistical enquiries also in view. A letter from Mr Madison to my predecessor, dated of May 1st 1808 of which a copy is enclosed, contains the authority under which the coinage of dollars was suspended. The Mint appears to have had intercourse with the Executive, at that period, through

the department of State, except in regard to its fiscal concerns.

The argument in favor of this suspension, has within a few years, lost much of its force. In illustration of this, I may mention a recent occurrence of a novel character. We received on the 28th ult. two deposits for coinage, about \$24,000 in Spanish Dollars from Canton, being returns of commercial adventures, which were thus remitted by the instruction of the parties, in preference to the ordinary products of China. To guard against the parties, in preference to the ordinary products of China. To guard against our silver coins straying to Canton, the above mentioned provision was devised as its principal aim, and was, I believe judicious for the purpose.

Very Respectfully

Your Obedt. Servt

Saml. Moore.

No 256	Hon. J. D. Ingham	Secretary of the Treasury	April 13 th 1831
" 257	J. J. Hart	New York	" 28 th 1831
258	J. J. Hart	Do.	May 2 nd 1831
259	J. J. Hamilton	Sup ^t of Indian Affairs	" 2 nd 1831
260	Thos Tyson	Forwarding Certificate	" 5 th 1831
261	Ch. A. & E. Richman	New York	" 16 th 1831
262	Abel S. Dungan	Baltimore	" 18 th 1831
263	Ch. A. & E. Richman	New York	" 19 th 1831
264	Hugh M ^r Henry		" 25 th 1831
265	Abel S. Dungan	Baltimore	" 23 rd 1831
266	Hon. J. D. Ingham	Secy of the Treasury	" 30 th 1831
267	Hon. J. D. Ingham	Relates to Units of Measures of Capacity	" 30 th 1831
268	James Meyer	Schenectady N. Y.	June 1 st 1831
269	John Olinstead	Hartford Conn.	" 5 th 1831
270	David Castelle	New York	" 9 th 1831
271	Wm McQuinn Esq	Respecting 21 Mexican Dollars	" 13 th 1831
272	Saml Lord Esq	Coastwise, Portsmouth N. H.	" 13 th 1831
273	N. S. Bop Esq	Coastwise Newport N. S.	" 13 th 1831
274	Hon. J. D. Ingham	Relates to the Units of measures	" 15 th 1831
275	Hon. J. D. Ingham	Same Subject	" 17 th 1831
276	J. J. Hart	New York	" 18 th 1831
277	Ch. Dickens Esq	Acting Secy of the Treasury	" 22 nd 1831
278	Professor Chaplin		" 25 th 1831
279	Ch. A. & E. Richman	New York	" 26 th 1831

See file for 1831